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New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818)

Draft resolution (A/64/L.69)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like at the outset to welcome Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, who is joining us at this very important meeting.

Members will recall that the Assembly considered this item at its 60th, 64th and 68th plenary meetings, on 7, 16 and 23 December 2009, and adopted resolution 64/235 at its 68th meeting.

Allow me to begin with some brief remarks.

Terrorism continues to threaten global peace and security. In spite of continuing efforts by the United Nations, Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and civil society, the menace of terrorism continues to spread, with serious, destabilizing and disruptive consequences around the world. The impact on our societies, the trauma in our daily lives and the setbacks to social and economic development caused by acts of terrorism are huge and cannot be quantified.

The situation is an affront to the entire international community. It is a serious and complex challenge that requires a more holistic, better coordinated and more effective response from the international community. Such a response must be based on an objective analysis of the whole situation with regard to terrorism and must also take into account its underlying causes. It is also important to reiterate — and there is a strong consensus on this — that any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, culture or society is totally unacceptable. Any kind of discrimination against or selective treatment of individuals on the basis of their religion, race or nationality in the context of the fight against terrorism should also be considered unacceptable, as it contravenes the obligations of States under international law. I would like to stress the importance of a cooperative approach and strategy in tackling terrorism comprehensively and effectively.

All of this underscores the importance of the work that the Assembly has undertaken in recent weeks to review the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The draft resolution A/64/L.69 before the Assembly contains, among other things, provisions for the enhanced participation and engagement of Member States in implementing the Strategy, and better interaction between Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The draft also calls for integrated implementation of the Strategy's four pillars and wider dissemination and awareness of the Strategy, and it encourages the engagement of civil society in efforts to implement the Strategy.

Most importantly, it reiterates the Assembly's strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of where,

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by whom and for what purposes it is committed. It also recognizes that international cooperation and any measures undertaken by Member States to prevent or combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law. This includes the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its purposes and principles, and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as the right to self-determination, including an end to the occupation and aggression from which some nations still suffer.

I call on all Member States to match their repeated condemnation of terrorism with concerted and coordinated action aimed at implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. International, regional and subregional organizations and civil society have an important contribution to make in this collective endeavour.

In this context, I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for facilitating the consultations that have successfully culminated in a consensus text. I would like to recall that the Strategy, contained in resolution 60/288, and the first review of its implementation in resolution 62/272 were both adopted by consensus. The adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/64/L.69 will be a further demonstration of the commitment and political will of Member States to collectively address the problem of terrorism.

I now have the pleasure of giving the floor to Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali.

Mr. Ouane (Mali) (*spoke in French*): It is always a fresh pleasure for the delegation of Mali to see you, Sir, presiding over General Assembly meetings. Allow me at the outset this morning to thank you for having organized the current review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to congratulate the Secretary-General on his excellent report on the topic (A/64/818). This review provides a useful opportunity for the delegation of Mali at the outset to strongly reaffirm here the Government of the Republic of Mali's commitment to fighting terrorism and, consequently, to advocating the need for appropriate, consistent support for the efforts and initiatives that it has undertaken in that regard.

The fight against terrorism is particularly significant to the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region, within which Mali has a key place. As members know, our region has for some time experienced a situation of concern owing to the presence of terrorist groups and criminal networks whose activities seriously threaten peace and stability there. Since the Salafist Group for Call and Combat joined Al-Qaida and became an armed wing of the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, the vast Sahelo-Saharan region, which covers nearly 8 million square kilometres and has a low population density and extremely difficult living conditions, has become a de facto sanctuary for the Maghreb Salafist groups, hostage-takers, drug and arms traffickers, smugglers of illegal immigrants to Europe and other criminal networks.

What can be done to counter this worrying and complex situation, which is seriously affecting the socio-economic development of the Sahelo-Saharan region? What strategy should we adopt to effectively fight those threats, which endanger the national unity, harmony and peace of the peoples of the Sahelo-Saharan region? How can we create synergy between the national and regional efforts of the Governments of the countries concerned in the fight against terrorism and organized crime? Lastly, what steps should we consider with regard to strengthening national and regional capacities?

Those are the main elements of the Government of the Republic of Mali's new policy to alleviate the insecurity in the North of our country and to fight terrorism. That national policy is fully in line with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, submitted this new policy to the European Parliament, which met in plenary session yesterday, 7 September 2010. Allow me to repeat that very symbolic act from this lofty rostrum.

The Government of the Republic of Mali has just adopted an emergency programme to alleviate insecurity and fight terrorism in the North of Mali for the period 2010 to 2012. Implementing that programme will facilitate, first, the restoration of Government administration in those areas from which State structures had withdrawn, thus making it possible to counteract the negative consequences of certain provisions of the national pact signed in April 1992 between the Government of Mali and the movements and fronts arising from the Arab-Tuareg rebellion. In

concrete terms, we must create basic living conditions and infrastructure that will allow State authority to be re-established and provide security to the people by strengthening and/or establishing police, gendarmerie, national guard, customs and army units.

Secondly, implementing this policy will also facilitate a better climate for real assistance to the populations of sensitive areas through the execution of grass-roots projects and programmes that seek to educate, train and inform them with regard to the lack of security and terrorism. Establishing revenue-generating activities, strengthening microfinancing systems, building and developing housing and meeting the people's need for drinking water by providing wells, as well as their health needs by establishing community health centres and building schools, are measures that will certainly benefit the people in the longer term, in particular the young, and thus shield them from the influence of terrorist groups.

Thirdly, implementing the programme will also facilitate the opening of the northern areas by building roads along strategic routes, which, at the same time, will give the armed and security forces greater mobility for prevention, deterrence or intervention.

Fourthly, implementing the programme will facilitate relevant and robust regional and international cooperation based, on the one hand, on a common and sound view of the region's challenges and, on the other hand, on the sharing of operational resources.

Thus, despite the robust steps taken by the Government of Mali, it is quite clear that no country in the Sahelo-Saharan region can effectively fight this new threat to international peace and security arising from terrorism, the trafficking of drugs, arms and people, and hostage-taking alone. That is why Mali has always adopted a common and united approach among the States of the Sahelo-Saharan region to address the many security challenges they face.

In the context of that dynamism, the President of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Mr. Amadou Toumani Touré, organized a conference on peace, security and development in the Sahelo-Saharan region in Bamako so as to enhance coordination and cooperation in the fight against terrorism and cross-border banditry of all the States concerned. Mali believes that the conference should also allow the States of the region concerned to establish a common strategy for providing the conditions necessary to ending insecurity and ensuring the stability that is essential to harmonious development and regional prosperity.

Of course, we welcomed the fact that the preparatory ministerial meeting for the conference was held in Bamako in November 2008, as well as the Algiers assessment meeting held in March 2010. However, I wish here and now to strongly reaffirm that, given the cross-border nature of the threats that the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region face, the Governments of those countries must rise above their misunderstandings and short-term differences of opinion in order to enjoy a sincere, constructive dialogue — the only available alternative for establishing a genuine collective security strategy.

I would also like to point out that, in the framework of the implementation of the Government's new counter-terrorism policy, we have created an operational cell responsible to the presidency and a national office for the suppression of the traffic in drugs and narcotics, and strengthened legislation dealing with terrorism and international crime. Special units have also been created to combat terrorism and the criminal networks operating in northern Mali.

I am pleased to pay tribute to the excellent cooperation between the Government of Mali and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The heads of those bodies have visited Mali and seen for themselves the efforts of the national authorities in the fight against the new threats affecting the Sahelo-Saharan region.

It is also a pleasure to note that, driven by genuine political will to strengthen regional counter-terrorism cooperation, Mali has offered neighbouring countries the right to pursue perpetrators within Mali in cases where crimes acts are committed on their territory by terrorists or criminal networks. Mali has also proposed to affected neighbouring countries undertaking joint patrols along common borders.

I would like to close as I began by solemnly reiterating the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Mali, which is determined to pursue the fight against terrorism. In that light, I wish to emphasize a number of sectors that, in my view, should enjoy significant support from the international community and other partners. I would stress first the

training of people through educational and awareness-raising course; here, particular attention should be given to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and to the role of civil society, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and Governments.

I would next like to stress the importance of operational and logistical capacity-building through the creation of infrastructure, effective security, security and justice sector reform, and so on. Mention should also be made of the revitalization of bilateral legal instruments, the adoption of an international convention against terrorism, and improving policies and mechanisms for combating the drug trade. Here, I should like once again to pay tribute to UNODC and all our other technical and financial partners for their invaluable support to the Government's efforts in this regard.

Finally, I wish to highlight the critical need to ensure that economic and social development projects are funded, and that appropriate financial resources are mobilized to put in place basic infrastructure in our efforts to deal with poverty and marginalization.

Those are the outlines of Mali's new strategy for combating terrorism. Effective and diligent implementation of that strategy will undoubtedly contribute to combating terrorism in Mali and the Sahelo-Saharan region as whole. Let us recall that the threats involved are transnational; we must therefore act and act quickly. The Government of Mali, which remains open to all forms of cooperation, knows that it can count on the support of the United Nations and the international community.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic): I have the honour to address this Assembly on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) group on the second biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Allow me at the outset to pay tribute to Mr. Laborde, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and Director of the CTITF Office, for all the excellent efforts he has undertaken so far. I would also like to express the OIC group's deep appreciation for the efforts made by Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, facilitator of the counter-terrorism strategy review consultations, aimed at reaching a consensus draft resolution on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We understand the time constraints, and hope that the appointment of a facilitator for the review can be made much earlier than 2012.

The OIC group participated constructively and actively in the process of negotiating draft resolution A/64/L.69, and showed the utmost cooperation and flexibility in coming up with a consensually agreed outcome. We are delighted to see that our efforts and those of other negotiating partners proved productive and that we have a text that enjoys the support of the general membership. We regret, however, that some of the Group's proposals that are very dear to the OIC countries and rank among its principal positions could not find a place in the draft resolution. The group continues to attach the highest importance to those principled positions and is determined to promote them as appropriate.

The OIC group reaffirms its strong condemnation of all acts and practices of terrorism and remains convinced that terrorism, irrespective of its motivation, objectives, forms and manifestations, and regardless of where, by whom and for what purposes it is committed, can never be justified.

The OIC group reaffirms that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. No religion or religious doctrine encourages or inspires acts of terrorism and, thus, none should be portrayed as such. In this increasingly globalized world, we need more than ever before understanding, harmony and the building of bridges among all cultures and peoples.

The group reaffirms the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly sovereign equality, territorial integrity and the political independence of Member States. The Group also underlines the need for respect for international law, international humanitarian law, human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

The OIC group reiterates its support for a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism that must address the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, prolonged unresolved conflicts, festering international disputes, the denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political and economic injustices, and political marginalization and alienation.

The OIC group reaffirms the distinction between acts of terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate and lawful right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51, which also endorses this position.

The group would like to stress the central role of the General Assembly in countering terrorism as the only United Nations body that enjoys universal membership. The group reaffirms that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document that should be examined and updated biennially. The group also reaffirms the need for the balanced implementation of all aspects of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The OIC group stresses that the implementation of the Strategy lies first and foremost in the hands of Member States, and believes that the membership of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) should be extended to encompass Member States. The group recognizes the need to identify the responsibilities of the CTITF towards Member States, including quarterly and fully transparent briefings on its activities. We are of the view that the Task Force must receive policy guidance from the general membership.

The group firmly believes that the involvement of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes in the United Nations counter-terrorism activities, under the umbrella of the CTITF, should not affect their mandates and operational activities. The group also believes that, in the work of all United Nations counter-terrorism entities, transparency must be strengthened, coordination must be enhanced and duplication must be avoided. The group recognizes the need to strengthen support to Member States, upon their request, in the domestic implementation of the Strategy through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building.

The group stresses that the establishment of appropriate structures and the organization of events and activities related to the Strategy should be undertaken in a way that promotes consensus, respects given mandates, avoids politicization and addresses all aspects of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy on an equal footing.

The group expresses its deep sympathy with the victims of all acts of terrorism, perpetrated by State or non-State actors, and with the victims of the implementation of counter-terrorism measures who suffer due to the disregard of human rights and international humanitarian law. The group would also like to expresses its concern over the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, which constitutes one of the sources of financing of terrorist activities.

Mr. Grauls (Belgium): I will be speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU). The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

The European Union would like to thank, first of all, His Excellency Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for having facilitated the consultations that led successfully to the consensus draft resolution A/64/L.69. I would like to express also, on behalf of the European Union, our appreciation to Mr. Laborde, the newly appointed Director of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, for his commitment and achievements so far.

I am honoured to deliver today the European Union's contribution to the second review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The General Assembly showed remarkable unity in adopting the Global Strategy by consensus and in maintaining that consensus through this second review of its implementation. This consensus sends a powerful message to those who use terrorism to promote their political ends. The entire international community stands united against them and their methods.

I take this opportunity to set out what the European Union sees as the main issues facing the international community in confronting terrorism, and where it can help address them. The European Union's intervention two years ago in the General Assembly described the broad outlines of the EU's counter-terrorism strategy, adopted in 2005. The EU delegation is circulating two separate documents today detailing

what the European Union has done and is doing to combat terrorism.

The core principles of the EU's approach, highlighted during the first review in September 2008, remain valid today, and I would like to recall them briefly here.

First, the European Union considers terrorism to be a crime that should be prevented, prosecuted and punished according to the rules and procedures of criminal law. In so doing, the European Union contributes to preventing the glorification of the terrorists' action being used to recruit new adherents to their cause. We also need to emphasize the special protection, assistance and recognition that are due to the victims of terrorism. The European Union calls upon Member States and the relevant United Nations entities to promote international solidarity in support of victims and the protection of their rights as well as to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect and have their needs met. This special attention to the victims brings to the fore the appalling consequences of terrorism and thus contributes to delegitimizing any possible justification of such acts.

Secondly, the European Union is committed to supporting multilateral approaches, working with regional organizations, but most significantly with the United Nations system, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the specialized agencies. In this context, the European Union once again calls for a speedy conclusion of the negotiations on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be an important step forward in the United Nation's counter-terrorism efforts. I should point out that the Lisbon Treaty explicitly renews the commitment of the European Union to the United Nations Charter.

The EU considers that international cooperation is fundamental to responding properly to a threat that is transnational by nature. Having been hit severely by terror attacks in the past and still being a potential target of terrorist groups, the European Union has developed a wide range of cooperation policies internally and with third States. These include legal and security cooperation, the exchange of information, and the definition of joint strategies or technical assistance to third countries in all counter-terrorism fields. The worldwide approach of the Global Strategy brings us a unique opportunity to develop and enhance such cooperation. The European Union stands ready to share its experience in this field.

One of the key priorities of counter-terrorism assistance of the European Union is to support United Nations Member States in their efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The European Union has already started its first projects to assist the counter-terrorism efforts of a number of Member States and to work with the United Nations to make the Global Strategy better known. The institutionalization of the Task Force constitutes an important step in ensuring this coordinating role. In delivering its counter-terrorism assistance, the European Union is committed to a comprehensive and long-term approach.

In this regard, the European Union fully supports the action undertaken by the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force to better coordinate the action of the various bodies inside and outside the United Nations system. The European Union welcomes the institutionalization of the Task Force and encourages it to develop a network of correspondents on the ground, relying on existing resources and personnel, to make sure that this coordination effort is also implemented in the field at the operational level. In this context, the European Union would also like to underline the importance of involving public-private partnerships in the implementation of the Strategy, notably as regards the protection of vulnerable targets.

Mr. Viinanen (Finland), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The third principle, which flows from the second, is the European Union's central concern for scrupulous respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, the European Union welcomes the improvement in the listing and de-listing procedures of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities, as well as the recent appointment of the Ombudsperson by the Secretary-General, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1904 (2009).

The key strength of the United Nations strategy, like that adopted by the European Union, is that it embodies a holistic approach. While keeping in mind that the Member States bear the principal responsibility for implementing the Strategy, we also need to ensure that the United Nations system as a whole works in a

coherent manner. Counter-terrorism-related activities must be mainstreamed in United Nations policies and operations, including in areas such as human rights, targeted sanctions and peacekeeping operations in an efficient and concrete manner, and efforts should be made to ensure that counter-terrorism policies are complementary to other geographical or thematic United Nations policies.

It is only through the implementation of the Strategy in all its aspects that the phenomenon of terrorism will be brought under control. This includes greater attention to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Donors need to recognize that their work aimed at promoting development and stability can address such conditions directly. The European Union will be working on this, in particular by fully exploiting the opportunities which the Lisbon Treaty confers on the European Union to coordinate the whole spectrum of its actions throughout the world.

The European Union will remain the strongest supporter of international standards on human rights and the rule of law. We remain convinced that effective counter-terrorism and the promotion and protection of human rights are mutually reinforcing, not competing, goals.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): I have the honour to address the General Assembly on behalf of the 10 States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. At the outset, let me register our appreciation for all of the hard work carried out by the President of the General Assembly, members of the Bureau and the facilitator, Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh, in preparation for the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this regard, we take note of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy (A/64/818).

International terrorism continues to pose a grave challenge to the international community. The ASEAN member States strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and underline that international cooperation and actions by States to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant international conventions. By adopting the United Nations Global Strategy on Counter-Terrorism, Member States committed themselves to combating and preventing terrorism in a holistic manner. The ASEAN member States support the Global Strategy in its entirety and call for its further effective and integrated implementation.

We welcome regular reviews by Member States of the implementation of the Strategy in order to find ways and means to bridge the gaps and to discuss policy guidance to the United Nations system, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). We also welcome the CTITF's playing a stronger coordinating role to ensure more effective support by the United Nations system to Member States in their efforts to implement the Strategy.

As underlined in the Global Strategy and General Assembly resolution 62/272, the responsibility for implementing the Strategy rests primarily with Member States. Thus, all ASEAN member States have stepped up their efforts to combat terrorism and to address the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while respecting human rights and the rule of law. The ASEAN member States also strive to strengthen cooperation among themselves and with other countries, including through the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and various partnerships in the eradication of transnational crimes and terrorism. The ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint, adopted by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the fourteenth ASEAN summit in Thailand in March 2009, identifies concrete actions to be undertaken, such as working towards the entry into force of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, endeavouring to accede to and ratify the relevant international instruments on counter-terrorism, promoting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism, and cooperating in support of development initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of and the conditions conducive to terrorism.

At the sixteenth ASEAN summit in Hanoi in April this year, the leaders of the ASEAN member States reviewed the implementation of the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint and re-emphasized the need to fully implement the ASEAN Convention on

Counter-Terrorism and its Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Most recently, terrorism was high on the agenda of the seventeenth ASEAN Regional Forum, which took place in Hanoi in July 2010 and was attended by foreign ministers and high-level representatives from 27 Forum participants. The participants in the seventeenth Forum recognized that terrorism remained a serious and immediate threat to regional and global security and reiterated their commitment to working together to eradicate the threat. They acknowledged the persistence of terrorist groups in the region and called for greater efforts to be exerted in a more comprehensive, multifaceted and coordinated manner. They underlined the importance of addressing the root causes of terrorism. They supported the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They highlighted the importance of nuclear security and non-proliferation to preventing terrorist groups from acquiring nuclear materials. They further agreed that countries should remain vigilant over the ever-changing modus operandi and movement of terrorists in the region.

In strengthening their efforts to combat and prevent terrorism and extremism in the region, the ASEAN member States stress the need to empower moderate sectors of society and the promotion of interfaith dialogue. In that regard, the ASEAN member States welcome the second Informal Meeting of Leaders on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, to be held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2010.

In conclusion, the ASEAN member States once again reaffirm their commitment to the fight against international terrorism. We are confident that Member States will seize the opportunity of this second review to renew their collective determination to fully implement the Global Strategy.

Mr. McNee (Canada): Today, I have the honour to address the General Assembly on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ). Let me begin by congratulating Ambassador Momen of Bangladesh on his appointment as facilitator of the second biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. On behalf of CANZ, let me also express our appreciation of the leadership demonstrated by Ambassador Momen and his team, who have taken on the important task of facilitating the negotiations.

Our three countries continue to consider the fight against terrorism to be a very high priority. We take the threats posed by terrorists — threats not just to the citizens of our countries, but to people everywhere — very seriously. CANZ recognizes the unique and valuable role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism. We believe that the United Nations, as the only organization with a truly global mandate and which itself has been the target of terrorist attacks, plays a key role in those efforts. In that undertaking, all of our counter-terrorism efforts must be rooted in respect for human rights, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

This second review of the Strategy provides an opportunity to reaffirm our unequivocal condemnation of all forms of terrorism and our joint commitment to the Strategy. While we do this as an international community, we must remember that the responsibility for implementation of the Strategy lies with Member States. CANZ firmly believes in the importance of the entire United Nations membership renewing its commitment to the Strategy and to its effective implementation.

The Global Strategy is a comprehensive document that covers a diverse range of counter-terrorism issues. Those issues are expressed in four distinct but mutually reinforcing pillars. CANZ believes that our focus should be on the integrated implementation rather than the modification of the Strategy. Indeed, only through our continued and collective efforts to implement those pillars will the Strategy fulfil its role as a relevant living document.

CANZ welcomes the recent full institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and considers it to be a positive development. We look forward to the Task Force developing its relationship with Member States through quarterly briefings and reports. We would also encourage the Task Force working groups to engage informally with Member States when and as appropriate. Canada, Australia and New Zealand stand ready to offer our support to the Task Force in living up to its mandate.

The Task Force plays a unique and valuable coordinating role and holds great potential to engender greater coherence and focus in the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. CANZ believes that this role should remain the focus of its work and does not

consider a separate programming role for the Task Force to be desirable or appropriate.

We think that the Task Force can achieve the greatest results in promoting implementation of the Strategy by working both in New York and in the field. CANZ commends the good work carried out by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and other United Nations entities and their valuable roles in ensuring implementation of the Strategy at the local level.

We support the draft resolution before us today (A/64/L.69), and have been pleased with the high level of support for the Strategy and its further implementation expressed during the negotiations.

In closing, let me add that our three countries reiterate our unwavering support for the Strategy and its four pillars and remain committed to doing our part in its implementation. We will continue in our efforts to enhance not just our domestic counter-terrorism efforts but also those at the regional and international levels, including through better cooperation with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Task Force.

Speaking on behalf of Canada as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Action Group (CTAG), I would also like to add that there are copies available of a CTAG counter-terrorism best practices and lessons learned paper at the back of the Assembly Hall. This paper, which was jointly prepared by the 11 States and four organizations that make up CTAG, summarizes key lessons that the Group has learned over its seven years of counter-terrorism work. I would encourage all delegations to consult the paper and share it widely with their colleagues.

Mr. Wetland (Norway): An integrated and long-term approach to the fight against international terrorism must strike a balance between preventive and combative measures. If we fail to take a long-term perspective in our fight against terrorist groups today, we may face new, stronger terrorist groups, with greater popular support, tomorrow. We risk undermining our own goals. This fight can be won only by making use of a wide range of methods, including political, humanitarian, economic, legal and military means. That is why we have the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with its comprehensive approach.

In the long term, we must focus on the factors that make some individuals choose the path of terrorism. Norway's work on peace, democratization and development is therefore an important contribution to the world's struggle against terrorism. Respect for democracy, human rights and international law is the mainstay of all efforts to combat terrorism.

The United Nations has a particular responsibility for coordinating global efforts against terrorism. It is important to strengthen its role in order to ensure that international efforts are endorsed and followed up by every country in the world. Strengthening the Organization's role will help ensure that the international community's efforts are as closely coordinated and integrated as possible, both in the short and the long terms.

The adoption by consensus of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy four years ago was a milestone in our common endeavour to prevent terrorism. It is, of course, the responsibility of Member States to implement the Strategy. The United Nations has not been tasked with coordinating Member States' implementation of the Strategy, but we have the United Nations to assist Member States with their implementation if need be. We have the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to coordinate the various United Nations agencies' efforts to assist Member States. Norway supports the Task Force politically and by financing projects. The Task Force has a unique opportunity to further a balanced approach to the implementation of the Strategy, with equal attention paid to all four of its pillars. It is important, in our view, that the Task Force have the necessary resources, and we welcome its institutionalization.

In October last year, Norway sponsored the International Workshop for National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points in Vienna in order to facilitate an interface between the Task Force and Member States. We are also co-sponsoring the follow-up conferences to come on a regional basis. We hope that these conferences will foster a deeper understanding of the comprehensive approach to counter-terrorism and thus foster greater support for the Global Strategy.

Let me end by expressing our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh and Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah of Pakistan for their able leadership and guidance, which brought us to the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the

draft resolution on the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy(A/64/L.69). Our thanks also go to all the delegations participating in those negotiations.

Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to congratulate Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh for his worthy efforts in facilitating a consensus on the draft resolution (A/64/L.69), despite the many difficulties in his path.

Algeria endorses the statement made by the representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We take this opportunity to reiterate in the strongest terms its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including actions that directly or indirectly encourage or strengthen it.

With its lengthy experience at the cutting edge of the fight against terrorism, from the very outset Algeria has recommended a global approach to this scourge. In that context, Algeria offered its full and active support for the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, whose spirit is a full response to the quest for global cooperation in combating the scourge of terrorism.

On the occasion of the second review, Algeria also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that the Strategy document remains relevant and open to the adaptation required by new developments in the struggle on the ground and by the evolving procedures and methods used by terrorist groups. In this regard, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, whose move towards the institutionalization necessary to implementing the Strategy is to be encouraged, must continually develop its capacities, taking due account of the evolving modus operandi of terrorist groups. In this context, terrorists' growing recourse to a despicable form of blackmail — the taking of hostages for ransom or to exchange for imprisoned terrorists — is a worrying development that the implementation of the Strategy must address.

The fight against terrorism cannot become more effective unless its sources of funding are blocked and all criminal activities connected to it dismantled. Algeria has thus urged the African Union to take action to improve international legal provisions for combating terrorism with respect to the payment of ransom or the freeing of terrorists in exchange for hostages. The African Union has responded favourably by requesting the United Nations to take the necessary decisions in the Security Council and the General Assembly. Here, my delegation welcomes the first important step taken by the Security Council in adopting resolution 1904 (2009), which clearly added ransom payments to the terrorist groups covered by resolution 1267 (1999) to the other forms of terrorism funding already prohibited.

Algeria, which fully subscribes to the goals of the Strategy and its four underlying pillars, would now like to make its contribution by describing our approach to combating international terrorism, in our country and region, based on our assessments of the terrorism threat and the challenges it currently poses.

Our strategy is based on three main tenets. The first is strengthening domestic efforts at the national level to combat terrorism. Counter-terrorism has a political dimension. Based on our own experience and in line with existing international norms, Algeria understands the importance of a comprehensive approach to preventing and combating terrorism. In tandem with implementing legal, judicial and operational measures, we have also adopted a political approach based on peace and national reconciliation.

That strategy is focused on the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation launched by our President, which was endorsed through a popular referendum in September 2005. The strategy has made it possible to eliminate any excuse for terrorist activity and to return to normalcy and implement a sweeping plan for social and economic development. The terrorist threat today emanates primarily from the remains of the organization formerly known as the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, which has attempted to take on a new dimension by further integrating itself into the nebulous web of international terrorism known as Al-Qaida and calling itself the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. That process now constitutes a serious security challenge, both for Algeria and for the region.

Algeria has also not neglected ideological and cultural aspects in combating debased speech used to justify, indoctrinate and radicalize. Language of that sort makes it possible for terrorist groups to continue to exist, recruit and have influence in some segments on the margins of society. Delegitimizing all such causes and removing them from the realm of the sacred is a job for religious and cultural figures and for educational systems and cultural programmes steeped in universal values that emphasize the true spiritual

values of religion. In that regard, Algeria has made a substantial contribution to the exercise in reflection undertaken by the United Nations Working Group on Addressing Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism. Lastly, our efforts are also coupled with the mobilization of national resources to combat causes of inequality resulting from development and growth.

The second tenet of our strategy entails Algeria's efforts at the subregional and African continental levels. Dangerous developments are taking place today in the Sahelo-Saharan area, basically stemming from the growth of trafficking of all sorts — in particular in drugs and weapons — and the emergence of terrorists acting under the name of Al-Qaida who, as we have seen, take hostages for ransom or in exchange for the release of other terrorists.

The need to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the subregion has thus become a major imperative. For Algeria, which has reduced terrorist violence on its territory, this is above all about consolidating our achievements by putting in place a subregional scheme whose primary goals include preventing any attempt to create safe havens for terrorist groups in the Sahel region, fending off all forms of foreign interference in the area and promoting economic and social development in the subregion as part of a renewed partnership.

With regard to Africa, our efforts are focused on providing support, as host country, to the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT), which was established under the aegis of the African Union. Our goal is to make the Centre an effective institution for research and operational support for the regional strategy to prevent and combat terrorism. With a view to strengthening the Centre's role as a regional African mechanism for coordination and cooperation, in June 2009 Algeria funded and participated in the holding of two workshops, one on the implementation in West Africa of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the other involving ACSRT focal points. Both meetings brought together African counter-terrorism experts and experts of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

Thirdly, with regard to partnerships at the multilateral and international levels, Algeria's cooperation with United Nations bodies continues to be focused on the overall goal of strengthening the judicial system and institutional capacities of our country in the area of counter-terrorism, in particular improving our capacity to adapt national legislation and take the steps necessary to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions. To that end, we want to ensure that the Council's resolutions are rigorously implemented and to make our contribution to United Nations efforts to combat this scourge by making constructive suggestions at meetings of United Nations bodies. In the same vein, we look forward to the establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime technical assistance and cooperation programme, with a view to expanding Algeria's capacity to combat terrorism.

With regard to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its third pillar, on strengthening the capacity of States, Algeria organized two workshops in 2009, one of which was on the theme of money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism. Algeria is determined to pursue efforts undertaken in this regard. We believe we are fully engaged in cooperating with United Nations institutions, in particular with the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We do not lose sight of the fact that our own efforts, which are set out in the series of national reports we have submitted on the subject, should be robustly strengthened internationally.

Moreover, as a founding member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Algeria has always worked to ensure that OIC makes efforts to educate its members about the cross-border threat posed by terrorism. At the same time, we have reached agreement with the European Union on a technical cooperation and assistance programme.

In conclusion, on the bilateral level, we have established contacts with many institutional stakeholders among Algeria's traditional partners, with which we have continued dialogue and intensified cooperation. These contacts allow us to establish and expand good practices in the areas of dialogue and cooperation with regard to international terrorism and associated security issues and to address and follow up efforts stemming from the implementation of cooperation agreements and programmes that are now entering the phase of active implementation.

Mr. Abdelaziz (Egypt): At the outset, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/64/818) and for his efforts to strengthen the implementation of

the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Our thanks go also to the President of the General Assembly and to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for all their efforts during the informal consultations to facilitate reaching a consensus draft resolution (A/64/L.69) on the second review of the Strategy.

Furthermore, I would like to associate my delegation with the statement delivered today by the Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Egypt participated actively and contributed tangibly in the drafting and adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have always reaffirmed that the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy lies with Member States. We stress further the importance of coordination between United Nations mechanisms and the specialized agencies of the Organization working in the area of counter-terrorism, so as to avoid duplication and the wasting of resources.

Moreover, Egypt is of the view that the Global Strategy should be the general framework for actions taken by the United Nations and by its mechanisms and specialized agencies in countering terrorism. Counter-terrorism efforts by the United Nations should not be limited to the mechanisms and bodies of the Security Council, but should be extended to mechanisms that involve the participation of the larger general membership of the Organization. Hence, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) should develop mechanisms that include the States members of the General Assembly in its decision-making process.

From this standpoint, Egypt supports initiatives aimed at enhancing implementation of the Strategy, including integration of the initiative of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia to establish a global centre for countering terrorism. This would be an efficient way to enhance implementation of the Strategy in a more balanced manner that would preserve the interests of the wider membership, increase the engagement of the General Assembly and limit the control of the Security Council in implementing and steering the activities of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

It is of paramount importance that the Global Strategy be implemented in a balanced manner in all its aspects, including by addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism — inter alia, through eliminating foreign occupation and socio-economic marginalization, and through the peaceful resolution of prolonged, unresolved conflicts. Since this constitutes the core of pillar one of the Strategy, it requires making more funds available — through cooperation between donor countries, civil society, and business and international financial institutions — in order to assist developing countries in implementing the Strategy. Such an approach is consistent with the discussion in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/818) of measures aimed at enhancing implementation of the Global Strategy and also with the importance of comprehensive implementation of all four pillars.

In this regard, Egypt reaffirms the importance of the comprehensive implementation of pillar two of the Strategy, pertaining to measures to prevent and combat terrorism, stressing the need to consider such acts of terrorism to be criminal regardless of their purpose and without applying a selective approach or double standards. Special emphasis should be placed here on the significant role that the CTITF, and the initiative launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, can play in clarifying current conflicting notions concerning implementation of the Strategy. Egypt therefore supports the conclusion of the Secretary-General's report that stresses the need for building in-depth knowledge of the mechanisms concerned with implementing the Strategy.

Finally, my delegation deems it crucial to continue to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding between civilizations, cultures and religions, and it calls for mutual respect and prevention of the defamation of religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation is at the forefront of the struggle against international terrorism and advocates enhancing effective anti-terrorism cooperation and strengthening the role of the United Nations as coordinator of that process. In this regard, we consider comprehensive implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be of fundamental importance. We view the Strategy as one of the principal instruments of international counter-terrorism and an exceedingly important consensus decision of the General Assembly that defines the priority areas for efforts to combat international terrorism.

In our view, it is important during the course of this review to support just such an understanding of the

significance of the Strategy, not to allow it to be undermined and to emphasize the importance of efforts aimed at its further implementation. We believe that a constructive, realistic and at the same time careful approach to the Strategy is fully reflected in the draft resolution (A/64/L.69) prepared for this meeting. This is to a large extent thanks to the congenial and wise leadership of the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh. We consider that such a text will assure our future joint, committed and effective efforts within the framework of international counter-terrorist cooperation, and that it will serve as an additional tool for successful implementation of the Strategy.

The Security Council brings its own significant contribution to the implementation of the Strategy. I would mention the measures being taken by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1267 (1999) and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the contributions of the expert groups under those committees as set out in their mandates, and the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Russia fully supports the work of the Task Force under its current mandate. We have maintained, and continue to maintain, that future steps taken in this area will increase the effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, promote effective dialogue with Member States, regional organizations and civil society and increase the capacity to respond to the threat of terrorism. We support further enhanced cooperation between the Task Force and the General Assembly, and the establishment of more regular contacts and feedback with Member States. In this regard, we welcome the plan to hold quarterly briefings and reports by the Task Force to Member States, as well as its plan to set up its own website for publicizing and promoting the Global Strategy. For today's review, we have prepared detailed background information on the efforts being made by the Russian Government and society as a whole to combat terrorism. These documents highlight measures being taken in areas of the Strategy that have priority for Russia. This means issues such as preventing terrorism, preventing radicalization of social attitudes, suppressing the propagation of extremist and violent ideologies and combating use of the media and the Internet for terrorist ends.

We have also demonstrated the potential for partnership and cooperation between State and non-State bodies as well as institutions of civil society. A recent example of such cooperation was the international research and educational conference held in Moscow in March on the theme "The Counter-Terrorism Partnership of the State, Business and Civil Society: Practice, Theory, Education", organized by the Russian University of Friendship among Peoples. An international research and teaching institute on the problems of combating terrorism is being set up at that university in close cooperation with the Task Force. Plans are also under way to publish on a permanent basis a news, analysis and research journal entitled *The Anti-Terrorism Bulletin*.

Since we attach special importance to the role of regional organizations in implementing the Global Strategy, we have taken an active part in such efforts through the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). With Russia's active participation in those organizations, we developed and, in June 2009, signed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Counter-Terrorism Convention and the CSTO Agreement on collective response measures; in October 2009 a model law on countering terrorism within the CIS was approved. We are convinced that with the signing in March and April of declarations of cooperation between the United Nations and the CSTO and the SCO, the contribution of these organizations to implementing the Global Strategy will grow and acquire a new dimension.

Since the last review of the Global Strategy, the President of the Russian Federation endorsed, in October 2009, the Concept of Counter-Terrorism in Russia, defining the basic principles of Government policy in this sphere. The Concept consolidates Russia's approach to effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We have continued to implement the integrated presidential communication plan to combat terrorism in the Russian Federation for the period 2008 to 2012. This plan focuses on Russia's own efforts but essentially meets the requirements of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It aims to establish an information system on State policy in countering terrorist and extremist ideologies, including via the Internet. I stress once again that the United Nations

Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an active part of the arsenal of Russian law enforcement bodies and associated civil society institutions, and is fully incorporated into my country's day-to-day counter-terrorist efforts.

The Russian Federation is prepared to continue to share with foreign partners its effective counter-terrorism experience. We are convinced that we will thus continue to make our contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Today's meeting will give added impetus to the attainment of that objective.

Mr. Andrianarivelo-Razafy (Madagascar) (*spoke in French*): The purposes and principles of the United Nations on matters pertaining to international peace and security, as set forth in the Charter when it was created, are more relevant and timely than ever. These purposes are firm and these principles constant, and our Organization remains the central point to ensure and protect the rights of the world's peoples in the spheres of security, development and human rights. Combating terrorism is a common task requiring the effective cooperation of all Member States at all levels in order to maintain international peace and security. Therefore, the delegation of Madagascar welcomes this review of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as an ideal opportunity for Member States to exchange experiences and information.

As in the past, the Organization is continuing to take positive action to combat terrorism effectively. We wish in particular to underscore: the adoption of a number of international counter-terrorism conventions; the Millennium Declaration, in which leaders of the entire world resolved to act together to combat international terrorism; the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Member States agreed to condemn terrorism categorically and without reservation; and the unanimous adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288, annex) in September 2006, which was a historic milestone expressing the determination of Member States to defeat the scourge of terrorism.

We must also praise the efforts taken by the Counter-Terrorism Task Force, made up of 30 bodies, organizations and funds, to implement in an integrated fashion the Global Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Visits and seminars have been organized for this purpose. I would mention the regional seminar of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on machine readable travel documents, and the ICAO meeting on biometrics and security standards, held at Abuja, Nigeria, from 6 to 8 April 2009. Those events have made it possible to enhance border security control by implementing a machine reading system using electronically readable travel documents and electronic passports with biometric functions. I would also refer to the meetings organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee with representatives of regional organizations such as the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the League of Arab States, and the meeting organized in Vienna, Austria, by the same Committee for national terrorism focal points, in which Madagascar participated. There were also exchanges of information and interactive briefings with Member States.

We welcome the establishment of the global Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the progress it has achieved. We also congratulate Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde on his appointment as Chair of the Task Force, and we wish him every success in his work.

Madagascar was greatly honoured at having received from 28 September to 3 October 2008 a visit from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) together with that of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in the context of facilitating the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The team, led by Mr. Mike Smith, included high-level representatives of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Maritime Organization as well as representatives from the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1540 (2004), ICAO, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL. This was a visit of great importance for Madagascar because of its geographical location and its vulnerability to acts of terrorism and trafficking of all types. It also enabled the Task Force to observe the realities of the country. The Task Force did excellent and effective work during its visit.

Thus, the Government of Madagascar would like to express once again its warmest thanks and appreciation to each of the members of the team who visited. We wish to renew our constant availability to work together with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and CTED. Madagascar reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the

Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in an integrated fashion and in all its aspects.

However, while our desire to cooperate is great, our resources are weak, even inadequate. Madagascar therefore reiterates its request for technical and financial assistance from the United Nations and its partners for capacity-building.

My delegation takes this opportunity to emphasize some of Madagascar's achievements as a result of the visit that I have just mentioned. These include reformed legislation, as well as bills on terrorism and extradition ready to be submitted to the new parliament. We have also established a national counter-terrorism committee.

My delegation lends its unreserved support to draft resolution A/64/L.69, which is before us today. It is consonant with the enhancement of international cooperation in the integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars — for there are terrorist groups which are highly organized and have sophisticated weapons. It also reaffirms the need for dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials of Member States to promote international, regional and subregional cooperation in order to make the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy better known.

Madagascar thanks the facilitators and coordinators for their efforts. Our thanks go also to the delegations that have demonstrated their understanding and flexibility during the negotiations on this draft resolution. We hope that it will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. Waxman (Israel): At the outset, let me thank the President of the Assembly for convening this meeting on a subject that has, tragically, touched the lives of too many individuals around the world.

Israel firmly believes that the collective fight against terrorism must be more than just statements of commitment reaffirmed from time to time. The reality that terrorists, as well as their sponsors, weapons, know-how and ideology, flow across borders requires a truly global effort to confront this threat. We should therefore seize today's opportunity to highlight avenues of cooperation, establish effective action plans and emphasize the obligation of all States to confront terrorism wherever it may rear its head. We must bear in mind that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism in any form or manifestation, without exception.

Israel supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) as a vital framework in confronting terrorism. We welcome the most recent report of the Secretary-General on this matter (A/64/818), as well as the extensive United Nations activities in the field of counter-terrorism. It is clear that the United Nations offers Member States an unprecedented number of resources for capacity-building and information-sharing.

Turning to specific issues surrounding our review, Israel supports the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which was created to coordinate United Nations counter-terrorism activities and streamline the process of assisting Member States in this regard. However, this process is not an end in itself. Instead, it should serve to promote the identification of concrete, innovative ways in which the United Nations can partner with Member States to ensure that counter-terrorism obligations are met and capacities are strengthened.

In this respect, the Secretary-General's report highlights the fact that Member States have the tools to build their capacity to fight terrorism more effectively. The four pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, all of which should be addressed simultaneously and be given equal weight and consideration, provide an essential framework for all States. Yet, just as terrorism changes and adapts, so, too, must the Strategy, in order to ensure that terrorism committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose will not be tolerated. Therefore, Israel believes that the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy must continue to be dynamic in order to remain relevant.

On this subject, we believe that increased partnerships among States, as well as regional groups, are essential. Israel is committed to being a dedicated partner in the global effort to counter terrorism in the international, regional and bilateral spheres. Over many years, we have developed a unique body of knowledge and capabilities in the field of counter-terrorism. Through our ongoing technical cooperation and support of projects and initiatives, including through various United Nations agencies, we seek to share our best practices and expertise and to contribute professionally to global counter-terrorism efforts. As part of these efforts, Israel has welcomed and endorsed the 2009 initiative to establish a global network of national counter-terrorism coordinators, with the close cooperation of relevant United Nations bodies.

As a party to the core United Nations conventions on terrorism, Israel has enacted effective legislation in order to implement its international obligations pursuant to those instruments. In doing so, successive Israeli Governments have not only prevented and combated terrorism, but have effectively addressed the participation in, and financing, planning and preparation of, terrorist acts. Furthermore, a Government bill concerning the struggle against terrorism is currently under consideration, with a view to addressing outstanding problems and challenges arising from the threat of terrorism, while striking a delicate balance between human rights concerns and security considerations.

In addition, greater attention in our work should be given to confronting the transfer of weapons by States to terrorist organizations and to the financing of terrorists, particularly in the Middle East. State sponsorship of terrorist groups — including the provision of weapons, training, funds and safe haven — creates an unprecedented threat in which groups that have no respect for any humanitarian principles are empowered with military capabilities previously found only in the arsenals of sovereign States.

The response of the international community to such States must be forthright: sponsoring terrorism and permitting terrorist groups to act with impunity from one's territory are not among the prerogatives of sovereignty. In this regard, it is crucial that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force intensifies efforts to raise awareness among States of the pressing need to designate terrorists and terrorist organizations as part of their national legislation, in order to avoid any legal void and ambiguity in confronting this scourge.

Israel welcomes the most recent report's attention to radicalization. For years, Israel has cautioned that the danger of incitement is a precursor of terrorism. We must acknowledge that terrorism does not begin with an attack on a bus, café, restaurant, office building or religious site. That is how terrorism ends. Terrorism begins with words and thoughts of hate. Terrorism begins when individuals dehumanize others and encourage martyrdom and a culture of death. Therefore, the international community has a duty to prevent incitement in schools, houses of worship, the media and elsewhere. Just as we bring terrorists to justice, irrespective of their cause, so too must we pursue those who build the foundations of terrorism by teaching children — or anyone, for that matter — to glorify death, hatred and murder in the name of any political movement, ideology or religion.

Beyond the issue of incitement, we cannot overlook the simple reality that good governance is a strong bulwark against terrorism. When the rule of law prevails, we can more successfully avert terrorist attacks. Therefore, building State capacity to counter terrorism must simultaneously establish benchmarks for overall levels of governance and transparency.

As we look to the future, Israel hopes that States, leaving today's debate, will be encouraged to develop and implement concrete proposals and policies that deny all terrorists everywhere the means to harm the innocent.

Ms. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank the members of the Bureau, and in particular to thank the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, for his efforts and commitment in coordinating the activities of the working group on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Terrorism is one of the most serious threats to the life, welfare and fundamental freedoms of all peoples. This global crime is not only a threat to international peace and security, but also undermines the principles and values of States, democratic institutions, the rule of law and the freedoms established and promoted by United Nations instruments. For this reason, Colombia, with unwavering firmness, completely rejects any act of terrorism in any form or manifestation.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides the basis for a concrete plan of action to prevent the spread of terrorism; to prevent and fight this menace; to adopt measures to build the capacity of States to fight terrorism; to strengthen United Nations functions in the fight against this crime; and to ensure that the implementation of the agreed measures ensures respect for human rights.

To follow up on these measures, Colombia, in complete fulfilment of its obligations under international law and within a framework of inter-institutional cooperation, has undertaken significant efforts to confront any manifestation of terrorism and make progress towards the firm goal of consolidating State security, protecting democratic stability and national institutions, and ensuring the security and welfare of all citizens.

Our comprehensive strategy, which was established through significant political, legal, operative and international cooperative mechanisms, has been focused on strengthening the rule of law and control of the entirety of the national territory; strengthening the protection of civil society; and completely dismantling the terrorist organizations that remain active in Colombia and that are linked to transitional organized crime, the illicit traffic of arms and illicit drug trafficking.

As part of the measures to support the role of the United Nation system in this regard, Colombia has made significant contributions both to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, amounting to $200,000 over the past three years. These contributions have been aimed at strengthening national capacities through inter-institutional platforms, technical legal assistance, the promotion of international cooperation against terrorism at the regional level, and the application of relevant instruments to prevent terrorism.

The coordinated efforts of our national institutions engaged in combating terrorism with the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have resulted in significant national and cooperation programmes aimed at enhancing and strengthening the legal, administrative and related tools in the fight against terrorism, as well as Colombia's institutional capacity in the implementation of relevant policies and norms.

Furthermore, I would like to note that the counter-terrorism policy adopted by Colombia includes respect for human rights as one of its central elements. In 2008, the Government laid out a comprehensive policy that sets out guidelines and actions on this matter, and which the police and military forces must understand and apply in their fight against terrorism.

These important national achievements in the fight against terrorism, many of which took place with the support of the international community, require complementary actions within an effective cooperation framework. In this regard, it is essential that Member States strengthen their commitment to unswervingly implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in order to jointly and coherently fight this phenomenon, which affects us all.

The draft resolution before us today (A/64/L.69) reflects the willingness of States to keep working and cooperating in the global fight against terrorism to combat this common threat. Colombia understands this as a decisive endorsement of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, its strengthening and the establishment of specialized teams that provide support and technical and legal assistance to States.

The terrorist threat, which has an impact on the security of our countries, also interacts with diverse transnational criminal networks that act in complex and multidimensional ways. Only if States are determined to strengthen cooperation and mutual support in the fight against these organizations will we be able to prevent, punish and eliminate terrorism in all its forms. Colombia will continue to offer its full capacity in this field, to share with the international community the good practices acquired in our fight against terrorism and to support the work of the United Nations in this regard.

Mr. Nagai (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express the appreciation of the Government of Japan for the leadership of the President of the Assembly in advancing the discussion on counter-terrorism. I also extend our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Momen of Bangladesh for his extraordinary contribution and efforts in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution for the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/L.69). Japan welcomes as well the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818) on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy.

The concerted endeavours of the international community to counter terrorism have yielded positive results. However, terrorism continues to pose a serious threat, given the emergence of new trends such as the radicalization of ordinary citizens, the recent increase in the number of home-grown terrorists, cyberterrorism and the use of the Internet for the incitement of terrorism. A continuing and comprehensive effort is called for in order to meet these challenges.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2006, continues to be a relevant and useful instrument in our efforts to combat terrorism, providing a holistic, comprehensive and multifaceted approach. The Strategy covers not only measures to prevent and combat terrorism but also measures to address the political, social and economic conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, as well emphasizing the importance of

respecting human rights and the rule of law. The Strategy also stresses the value of involving all stakeholders, from Member States, the United Nations and other regional and international bodies to the private sector and civil society.

We therefore should take this opportunity of the biennial review to examine our counter-terrorism efforts, to ensure that our efforts are coordinated and in concurrence with the principles and measures set forth in the Strategy and to reaffirm our commitment to further enhance our counter-terrorism cooperation under the Strategy.

Japan is an active and dedicated member of the international community engaged in numerous efforts to combat terrorism, at both the national and the international levels. Japan has long held the view that, while we must stand firm in combating and prosecuting terrorists, the promotion of respect for human rights and diversity, democracy, equitable social conditions and inclusiveness is most effective in the long run. In the light of the recent trend towards extremism and radicalization, which has led ordinary citizens to be successful or nearly successful in large-scale terrorist attempts, Japan has reaffirmed that view. In this regard, Japan has been promoting a culture of dialogue and providing assistance to address the educational needs of, and provide support for, moderate communities that show resilience vis-à-vis the threat of violent radicalism.

Japan also has been extending cooperation to many countries in areas including peacebuilding, poverty reduction, good governance and the rule of law and socio-economic infrastructure development. One example is the assistance package for Afghanistan of an amount in the area of $5 billion, announced last November. The package includes vocational training; capacity-building for financial and project management; infrastructure development such as the construction of roads, water facilities and power grids; and assistance in agricultural and rural development. This cooperation brings together the knowledge and expertise of diverse actors, including private organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Japan stands firm in implementing international and national measures to prevent and combat terrorism. Japan is party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and works, through the holding of annual seminars on this topic, to encourage other countries to accede to these conventions and protocols. The most recent such initiative was held in Tokyo in March, with the participation of all the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies.

Japan is taking active part in the discussions in the relevant Security Council committees and is fully implementing Council resolutions. In addition, Japan has taken the lead in enhancing cooperation on aviation security by organizing the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security, also held in March 2010.

In Japan, the private sector plays an important role, not only in addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, but also through preventive efforts, where the relevant industries are required to record and provide information on suspicious private transactions to Government agencies, and through promoting information and technology development through the sponsorship of large-scale exhibitions in that field.

In the area of capacity-building, Japan has extended assistance both bilaterally and multilaterally to improve the capacity of countries to combat terrorism in a wide range of areas, including immigration control, aviation security, port and maritime security, customs cooperation, anti-terror financing efforts and law enforcement. This cooperation has been provided in the form of technical assistance, seminars, trainer training and the provision of equipment. Japan has taken the lead in cooperation in these areas in the context of regional frameworks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, APEC and the Asia-Europe Meeting.

While Member States have the primary responsibility to implement the Strategy, the United Nations, with its expertise, resources and experience, plays a vital and central role in its implementation. To maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system, the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) is essential, and it was in recognition of its important role that the General Assembly authorized the institutionalization of the CTITF in December 2009. We look forward to the Task Force becoming fully operational, so that it can intensify its efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation among entities within the United Nations system in order to avoid overlaps and duplication.

In view of the comprehensive and holistic nature of the Strategy, Japan also looks forward to efforts by the CTITF not only to work in close cooperation with

the main actors in counter-terrorism, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, but also to communicate the Strategy to the wider United Nations system and the principal actors in order to promote counter-terrorism as a cross-cutting theme in the United Nations as a whole.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm Japan's resolve to implement the Strategy and its strong commitment to cooperate with the international community in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): As we gather here today to renew our commitment to the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we all recognize that no single country can address this global threat alone. The recent brutal attacks in Kampala, Uganda, which killed dozens of innocent people from nine different countries who were watching the World Cup finals, were a stark reminder of this fact. New Yorkers have also known the horrors of such cruel attacks. These are stark reminders that terrorism remains one of the most complicated threats to address.

The support of the United States for the Strategy is unwavering. We are committed to deepening and broadening our multilateral engagement and revitalizing and expanding our cooperation with our partners. The September 2006 adoption of the Strategy marked the first time that all Member States agreed on a common comprehensive framework to guide our collective efforts to combat and prevent terrorism. It reminds us what the General Assembly is capable of achieving when it chooses to focus on what unites countries from around the world — for example, the urgent need to disrupt, dismantle and defeat Al-Qaida and its adherents, a network that has killed thousands of people of many faiths and nationalities.

America will permit Al-Qaida and its extremist allies no safe haven from which to plot mass murder. We will forge lasting partnerships to target terrorists, share intelligence, coordinate law enforcement and protect our people.

With its four pillars, the Strategy's plan of action provides an essential framework for a holistic response to terrorism. The United States considers each pillar to be essential, and they are all reflected in our own new National Security Strategy.

To implement the first pillar, we need to look to the grievances and local drivers that terrorist organizations exploit and the ideology that is their key instrument in pushing vulnerable individuals on the path towards violence. More efforts are needed, through words and deeds, to undermine the insidious message of Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups and to prevent vulnerable individuals from turning to violence. To make progress on this pillar, we must resolve legitimate grievances peacefully and strive to foster good governance, reduce poverty and corruption and improve education, health and basic services. These objectives, necessary and valuable for many reasons, can play an important role as well in undermining the forces that can put the disillusioned and the dispossessed on the path to militancy.

The United States is working to deepen our cooperation with the United Nations in countering violent extremism, including by expanding our support for the Center on Policies to Counter the Appeal of Terrorism, of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. We encourage others to do the same. The Center is a useful platform where Governments from different regions that have created or are considering developing rehabilitation programmes for violent extremists can exchange information and coordinate their efforts.

We are also focusing attention on ensuring that the voices of the survivors and victims of terrorism who have been bravely speaking out against violent and extremist ideologies are heard and that the victims are never forgotten.

The United States is committed to implementing the second pillar. It prescribes a number of concrete and vital measures to prevent and combat terrorism, including putting in place the necessary legal framework to bring terrorists to justice. As evidence of our commitment to this pillar, we will be providing support for the seminar, to be held from 1 to 3 December, that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) will sponsor to bring together national prosecutors from around the world to exchange experiences and good practices in their handling of complex terrorism cases in their domestic courts.

The third pillar, capacity-building, is critical to implementation of the second. The United States wants to make counter-terrorism training for police, prosecutors, border officials and members of the

judiciary more systematic, more innovative and more far-reaching. Beyond our bilateral and regional programmes, we recognize the unique capacity-building experience that the United Nations can bring to bear in a range of counter-terrorism-related fields. For example, we are pleased to see how both the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have developed effective training and other programmes to connect the work of the United Nations with that of national counter-terrorism policymakers and practitioners. We plan to increase our funding support for both those entities.

The fourth pillar is integral to our approach to addressing the terrorism threat. It is clear that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law is an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort. That is why the United States has ended practices that were morally repugnant and counterproductive, such as enhanced interrogation techniques and the use of secret detention sites, and it is why President Obama ordered that the prison at Guantanamo Bay be closed.

The United Nations has a critical role to play in encouraging national counter-terrorism measures to be grounded in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in reinforcing the concept that respect for human rights is essential for effective international counter-terrorism cooperation and in working with countries to develop effective, rule-of-law-based criminal justice systems, as called for in the United Nations Strategy.

As we renew our commitment to the United Nations Strategy, we look to the United Nations, in particular through the work of its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), to find ways to further reinforce existing and to stimulate new national and regional implementation efforts. We are optimistic that the recent appointment of the first full-time head of the Task Force and the institutionalization of the CTITF office will support implementation efforts across all four pillars and will strengthen coordination and cooperation among the Task Force entities — including in the field, where it matters most. We hope that the CTITF will now be able to make progress in crucial areas, such as raising awareness of the United Nations Strategy and its practical significance among national counter-terrorism policymakers and practitioners.

Contemporary terrorism has been decades in the making. My colleagues know that it will take many more years to un-make it. There is much that we still need to learn, especially about how to prevent individuals from choosing the path of violence. With its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a newly institutionalized Task Force with 30 members, the United Nations has both the right framework and the set of tools to assume a central role in our common efforts to tackle this challenge.

In closing, the United States congratulates Ambassador Momen on his success in facilitating a consensus draft resolution (A/64/L.69) that reinforces the continued commitment of all of us to implement the Strategy.

Mr. Sobków (Poland): Let me start by saying that Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace, security and stability and deserves a decisive response by all peoples and Governments. The United Nations plays a central role in the global response to terrorism while influencing and strengthening regional and local counter-terrorism efforts. We believe that the discussion on drafting the United Nations comprehensive convention on international terrorism will soon produce a common position.

The unanimous adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, as one of the most important and comprehensive steps in conducting coordinated, consistent and integrated counter-terrorism strategies at all levels, cannot be underestimated. The Strategy offers countries a broad-based, long-term framework that is needed not only to thwart and respond to terrorist attacks, but to address socio-economic conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to the violent radicalization of local populations.

The creation of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) significantly developed the coordination of counter-terrorism activities within the United Nations system to implement the Strategy. The further institutionalization of the CTITF gives us additional opportunities to improve the effectiveness of counter-terrorism coherence and cooperation. The CTITF also constitutes a very useful and practical forum for discussing

strategic issues and sharing knowledge and experiences. The assistance role of the CTITF vis-à-vis Member States should be developed to help countries in implementing the Strategy.

Since terrorist actions have, in all cases, a global or regional dimension, our policy underlines the importance and necessity of strengthening international cooperation and developing and implementing international law within national law systems. In the two years since the first review of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Poland has made significant progress in developing counter-terrorism activities in international forums, including the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, as well as nationally by enhancing its legal and institutional anti-terrorist systems.

To date, Poland has signed and ratified 13 of the 16 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols. Thanks to our President's ratification on 22 March, Poland has now become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. In recent years, Poland has also become party to other international documents, including two Council of Europe conventions, namely, on the prevention of terrorism and on the laundering, search, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds from crime and on the financing of terrorism.

Poland is actively involved in developing intercultural and interreligious dialogue that leads to better understanding of different nations, customs and confessions. In July 2010, Poland hosted a ninth conference of young Muslims. In October 2010, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Muslim Union of Poland are planning to organize a conference devoted to the conditions of Muslim minorities living in Central and Eastern Europe. The conference will take place under the patronage of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Taking into account the need to counter the roots of terrorism, we are engaged in delivering development aid to strengthen State structures, civil society and domestic markets, as well as to help youth gain access to jobs, education and health care — for example, in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Palestinian Authority and Central Asian countries.

We are also seriously engaged in countering the threat of the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons through the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. In November 2010, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons will conduct a tabletop exercise in Poland on reducing the risks of toxic chemicals being acquired or used for terrorist purposes.

Poland has consistently developed bilateral cooperation with numerous countries to counter the phenomenon of terrorism more effectively. Last year and this year, Polish Government institutions organized seminars for partners from Algeria, Pakistan, Romania and Tunisia to share our experience in countering the financing of terrorism. Poland is closely cooperating on counter-terrorism issues with Ukraine in preparation for the European football championship in 2012.

The Polish legal framework on anti-terrorism issues is being consistently developed and adjusted to evolving circumstances. In 2009, a bill amending the act on countering the introduction into financial circulation of property assets derived from illegal or undisclosed sources was adopted, as was a bill amending the crisis management act. We are also engaged in fighting new threats such as cyberterrorism. In March 2009, Poland adopted its Government cyberspace protection programme for the period 2009 to 2011.

We are also making ongoing efforts with regard to our national counter-terrorism strategy that will comprehensively address issues associated with preventing and countering terrorism. In 2008 and 2009, we developed our institutional system for countering terrorism. For example, we established a Government response team for computer incidents within the framework of the computer systems security department of our internal security agency. Its purpose is to protect computer systems and networks in Poland from cyberthreats.

In 2008, the inter-ministerial team on the prevention of the illegal proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was established as an advisory team to the council of ministers, in implementation of the Cracow initiative. In August 2008, the Government's security centre was established to be responsible for the provision of analysis on current threats, preparing crisis management procedures, supervising the validity of crisis response plans and other issues.

In 2008, the Government crisis management team was established to be responsible for opinion-making provided to the Government and for coordinating various crisis-management issues. We also established an anti-terrorism centre at our internal security agency. Its basic functions are to monitor and analyze various terrorist threats concerning Poland and Polish interests and citizens abroad, as well as to provide advice to the President, the Prime Minister and Government institutions.

Finally, in 2009, an inter-ministerial committee on financial security was established under the inspector-general for financial information as an advisory body that is part of the application of special measures to counter the financing of terrorism.

The changes to which I have referred have significantly improved the functioning and effectiveness of the Polish counter-terrorism system. We have seized the opportunity to enhance our contribution to international activities to counter the phenomenon of terrorism.

In conclusion, let me say that while progress has been achieved in our common fight against terrorism and in implementing the Strategy, important challenges remain in many areas. Those include fully safeguarding human rights when fighting terrorism and promoting efficient international counter-terrorism cooperation. We need to continue our efforts to eliminate this terrifying phenomenon.

Mr. Lindenmann (Switzerland) (spoke in French): In the interest of time, I shall read out only part of the Swiss statement. A complete version will be distributed in the Hall.

Allow me, at the outset, to express my delegation's gratitude to the Secretary-General for his report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/818). The report contains a very useful survey of measures by Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant organizations on the implementation of the Strategy.

Switzerland commends the unremitting efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its office with a view to enhancing coherence within the United Nations system and thereby promoting the Strategy's four pillars. We also welcome the General Assembly's institutionalization of the CTITF in December 2009.

Switzerland participated actively in the preparation of the new draft resolution on the implementation of the Strategy and supports its final version (A/64/L.69). We welcome in particular the fact that the draft resolution refers to new tools aimed at better interaction between the CTITF and Member States.

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism. It reminds us that, to be effective, an international counter-terrorism programme must focus on non-military tools. Moreover, it underscores the need to promote all four pillars of the Strategy, including strengthening capacity-building, law enforcement cooperation and addressing the underlying social and political conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The draft resolution we are soon to adopt also affirms that counter-terrorism efforts must respect human rights, including due process and the rule of law. We believe that the Strategy is, and remains, the foundation of the United Nations global counter-terrorism programme. In that connection, the Strategy's four pillars should receive equal attention. That should also be reflected in the composition of the CTITF as well as in the themes addressed by the various working groups.

Since the Strategy's adoption in 2006, Switzerland, alongside other States and organizations, has worked intensively to concretely implement the Strategy. In particular, we have done so through our participation in 2008 in the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and, over two days in Vienna in October 2009, in an international workshop of national counter-terrorism focal points. This summer, Switzerland launched a new strategy — together with Austria, Germany, Norway, Turkey, the United States and the CTITF office — that builds on the Vienna meeting and aims at raising awareness and promoting in-depth knowledge of the Strategy and its relevance at the national level for the efforts of each country. The initiative will bring together national counter-terrorism practitioners and policymakers, including national counter-terrorism coordinators, as well as non-traditional partners, including from the development and education sectors. The project's goal

is to make the United Nations Strategy more relevant for, and responsive to, needs on the national, subregional and regional levels.

Through those initiatives, we hope to promote the comparative advantage and specific added value of the United Nations counter-terrorism system. In that context, we should address the following questions. First, how can we further improve cooperation within the United Nations system among entities of differing legal status? Secondly, what sort of governance architecture allows the United Nations to carry out its functions in the most effective and most legitimate manner? Thirdly, how can we best give practical meaning to the United Nations Strategy in various regions and in Member States, and thus create a sense of ownership on the ground? Fourthly, how can the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations be improved further? Fifthly and lastly, where can multilateral engagement through United Nations action add value to existing bilateral and regional programmes already implementing the four pillars of the Strategy comprehensively, albeit perhaps under a different label?

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): Turkey has aligned itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I shall therefore limit myself to the following points and to sharing with the General Assembly some of our views on this matter.

It is a pleasure for me to address the General Assembly on this very important issue. First of all, I would like to thank the President of the Assembly for his opening remarks. Likewise, I wish to thank the facilitator, Ambassador Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and his able team for their unrelenting efforts in facilitating an agreement on the draft resolution before the Assembly today (A/64/L.69).

Terrorism is a crime against humanity that violates fundamental human rights, particularly the right to life. It cannot, and should not, be justified under any circumstances. As a constantly evolving phenomenon, the threat of terrorism has proven to be extremely resilient by adapting itself to changing circumstances. Therefore, our fight against terrorism should be comprehensive and multidimensional. Moreover, the international community needs to work together in full harmony. This venue, the United Nations, is one of particular relevance in that respect, since is has always been at the forefront of efforts to advance the global fight against terrorism.

In 2006, the General Assembly took a historic step by unanimously adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This was a milestone in reaffirming the collective commitment of the international community to combat the common threat of terrorism. The institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in December 2009, constituted another significant step in the same direction. Today we will conclude the second review of the Strategy. We have had useful and constructive discussions in the course of the past few weeks to conclude the draft resolution. I believe that it encompasses important points with regard to coherence and coordination within the United Nations system and interaction between the United Nations system and Member States.

The importance of greater cooperation among United Nations entities and the need to continue to strengthen transparency are salient points in the draft resolution. We welcome the idea of having the secretariat of the Task Force provide quarterly briefings to Member States. The new website to be developed by the Task Force will help to ensure that its work is made more accessible to a wider audience. In our view, interaction and dialogue between the United Nations system and Member States are critical for more effective implementation of the Strategy.

In addition to those on human rights, let me also underscore the references made to due process and the rule of law while countering terrorism. We are particularly pleased to have those elements in the draft resolution, as compliance with the principles of due process and the rule of law enhances the solemn basis of our efforts and ensures better cooperation among Member States. That in turn will contribute to our ability to effectively combat terrorism.

It is now time to focus on achieving concrete results. The necessary basis for effective action exists. It is incumbent upon members of the international community to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Strategy in an integrated manner and in all its aspects. In that regard, we would like to commend the efforts of Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chairman of the Task Force, which is responsible for ensuring the overall coordination and coherence of the

counter-terrorism endeavours of the United Nations system.

We welcome the new initiative by the Task Force and a number of Member States to carry out concrete projects aimed at promoting awareness and in-depth knowledge of the Strategy at the regional level in various parts of the world. In particular, we find the regional approach of that initiative very useful. I would like to take this opportunity to mention Turkey's decision to contribute to the workshops planned within the framework of the initiative.

Counter-terrorism should be a standing priority of the international community and of the agenda of the United Nations. The United Nations, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council, should continue to play a leading role in ensuring that we are prepared to combat terrorism. In that regard, in its capacity as President of the Security Council for September, Turkey will hold a thematic meeting on counter-terrorism on 27 September. We consider that meeting to be another opportunity to assess the current threat posed by terrorism and to lay out a forward-looking approach for our future actions to eradicate this scourge once and for all.

Mrs. Le Fraper du Hellen (France) (*spoke in French*): First of all, allow me to thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this meeting. I would also like to thank Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, whom the President designated as facilitator for the preparation of draft resolution A/64/L.69, on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is the subject that has brought us together today.

France of course associates itself with the statement delivered earlier by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union. I should just like to say a few additional words.

Five years after its adoption, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has become the undisputed framework for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The Organization has learned to play a role in this area — something that was not clear it could do. The institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, less than a year ago, was a crucial step in strengthening and making permanent the role of the United Nations in combating terrorism. However, the United Nations can do even more, and in a more coordinated manner.

The draft resolution we will adopt today reaffirms the central role of the Task Force, under the direction of Jean-Paul Laborde, in coordinating the Organization's internal efforts and developing contacts with local and regional authorities. As we prepare to adopt the draft resolution, we welcome the fact that the General Assembly has once again succeeded in demonstrating unanimity on this subject. It is essential that the international community preserve its capacity to maintain a united front so long as conventional, nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical terrorism continue to pose a global threat. In the same vein, we encourage Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify all United Nations conventions and protocols that are the legal foundation of international efforts to combat terrorism. We hope too that Member States will achieve success in the negotiations on a comprehensive convention against terrorism.

As an operational tool, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy also requires an implementation review. That is all the more important given that the implementation of the Strategy involves a variety of stakeholders in each of its four pillars: the State, civil society, regional organizations and, of course, the United Nations. It also involves a variety of tools.

Many efforts have been made at the State level, including thanks to technical assistance and international cooperation, which have made it possible to help strengthen the means to combat terrorism. For its part, France remains determined to make its contribution to this global effort.

Mr. Sial (Pakistan): We wish to express our deep appreciation for the efforts made by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, His Excellency Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, facilitator of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy review consultations, aimed at reaching a consensus draft resolution on that review.

The Pakistan delegation associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Syria on behalf of the group of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Pakistan is a victim not only of terrorism but also of natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods. We cooperate daily with friends and allies to implement all four pillars of the Strategy. Pakistan has deployed more than 120,000 security forces along our border with Afghanistan. We have set up 938 border posts to

interdict members of Al-Qaida and the Taliban. We have captured hundreds of Al-Qaida operatives, including most of its top leaders. Our cooperation has pre-empted several terrorist plots. While we have lost the precious lives of a number of our security personnel in anti-terrorist operations, we have made the world a safer place.

Pakistan is fulfilling its international obligations, particularly its commitment to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have ratified 10 of the 13 United Nations conventions relating to terrorism. In addition, we are a signatory to the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In its efforts towards ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, Pakistan has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering bill. A financial monitoring unit has been established in the State Bank of Pakistan to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Pakistan is also implementing the comprehensive international standards embodied in 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on money laundering and nine special recommendations on terrorist financing.

Pakistan is a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. We are party to the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and its Additional Protocol on the Financing of Terrorism. In November 2009, Pakistani police representatives and prosecutors took part in a three-day workshop conducted by the United Nations in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In June 2010, Pakistan actively participated in a workshop in Colombo for senior-level police officers and prosecutors to consider specific issues that arise in the area of counter-terrorism.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. While we strongly condemn terrorism, we also condemn any aspect of it being associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society. No religious tradition or doctrine should be depicted as encouraging or inspiring acts of terrorism.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Only through a coherent and coordinated approach will the international community's fight against terrorism yield effective results. To achieve that objective, Pakistan supports a comprehensive strategy and its balanced implementation to combat terrorism. Such a strategy must address the root causes of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts, the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, the denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political and economic injustices and political marginalization and alienation.

In the four years since the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we have realized that the Strategy in itself will be of little value unless it is transformed into action by an effective implementation mechanism. The Strategy needs to be implemented in a comprehensive manner and in all its aspects. No single pillar of the Strategy should be given preference over its other pillars, nor should part of any pillar be given priority over other parts of the same pillar. We are of the view that the implementation of the Strategy in the following areas would serve the purposes of the second review and maintain the consensus that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy enjoyed in the first place.

First, one pillar of the Strategy highlights the need to settle prolonged unresolved conflicts. Any breakthrough in addressing long-standing conflicts would go a long way in making our counter-terrorism efforts more effective.

Secondly, the Strategy also addresses the unjust defamation of certain religions. The unfair and bigoted portrayal of Islam and Islamic beliefs adds fuel to the fire of extremist and terrorist strategies and exacerbates the divergence in attitudes and perceptions between the Islamic and Western worlds. In this increasingly globalized world, we need understanding, harmony and the building of bridges among all cultures and peoples more than ever before.

Thirdly, the Strategy also addresses the need to promote economic and social development as the means to arrest and eliminate extremism and terrorism. Socio-economic marginalization is one of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The promotion of balanced socio-economic development in regions where extremism exists should be a high priority for the international community.

Pakistan considers the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars as an evolving document and an ongoing effort, and not as a

stagnant, dead document that does not reflect changes taking place around it. Change is the only permanent aspect of reality. The Strategy must be updated and revised, substantively and regularly, in the light of new changes in the world.

The draft resolution on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which we hope will be adopted by consensus, highlights the need to ensure the observance of the rule of law and due process in the implementation of the Strategy. To that end, we would like to express our support for the continuation of reform in the procedures of the Security Council committees to ensure due process. We welcome the recent efforts made by the Council in that regard.

We welcome the idea of enhancing dialogue among Member State counter-terrorism officials to promote international cooperation, as referred to in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution on the second review of the Strategy. We fully support the global counter-terrorism initiative in that regard. We thank those who showed understanding of that idea and we appreciate the support extended to us on this issue across the spectrum. The idea of the global counter-terrorism initiative has now matured and needs to be translated into action. We want to assure the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of our continued support in designing and implementing the project.

We have taken note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy" (A/64/818). We welcome its emphasis, in paragraph 138, on a holistic approach to counter-terrorism. We also welcome the recognition in paragraph 11 of the need for the peaceful resolution of conflicts to strengthen global efforts against terrorism.

However, the reference in paragraph 22 to UNESCO's role in the revision of curriculums and text books, with the aim of removing misinformation or embedded prejudices or stereotypes, needs to be viewed carefully in the context of the debate during the original Strategy negotiations in 2006. We are not sure whether embedded prejudices and stereotypes can be defined in an objective manner, particularly in the area of social and cultural studies.

We reiterate our support for the initiative of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia to set up a global counter-terrorism centre.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.117

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

117th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 8 September 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

In the absence of the President, Mr. García González (El Salvador), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818)

Draft resolut on (A/64/L.69)

Ms. Valenzuela Díaz (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): We welcome the holding of this important meeting, which allows us to undertake a second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also welcome the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818), which describes the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy.

The Government of El Salvador reiterates its resolute support for all measures adopted within the framework of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism. Such measures must be implemented in accordance with the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions and agreements.

We underscore the importance of continuing to promote the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on the basis of its four pillars. It is also important to strengthen actions that, through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, can be fostered among States to facilitate the necessary coordination among the various institutions responsible for the issue.

We are fully convinced that the fight against terrorism must be supported by a legal framework that gives due legitimacy to Governments in achieving that goal. That is why promoting the adoption, ratification and entry into force of the various international treaties on the issue is essential in providing the bodies involved in the fight against terrorism with the legal tools to facilitate their work.

However, we also believe that strengthening and promoting international cooperation to be extremely important, given that it is a key element that strengthens effectiveness and efficiency in preventing and suppressing terrorist acts, precisely owing to the executive and operative nature of that cooperation. It is also necessary to promote greater judicial cooperation and exchange of information among financial entities and police intelligence bodies.

Our commitment to fighting international terrorism has guided our actions internally, bilaterally, regionally and internationally. Thus, El Salvador wishes to reiterate and renew its position condemning all forms of the expression, financing and execution of terrorism.

El Salvador is a State party to 15 international sectoral instruments on terrorism. At the same time, it continues to adapt its domestic legislation on the issue. El Salvador is in compliance with the reports required

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under the Security Council resolutions on the prevention, combating and elimination of terrorism.

Moreover, it is necessary to promote among countries and nations the elimination of factors that can fuel terrorist acts, such as political, ethnic, racial and religious intolerance and social and economic gaps, and to continue to promote space for open dialogue among the national focal points responsible for the issue. That is necessary in order to promote the exchange of experience, given that terrorism can go hand in hand with other phenomena, such as drug trafficking and related activities, such as transnational organized crime.

Nationally, with the restructuring and specialization of our public security bodies, El Salvador has strengthened its implementation of the Strategy. The Government of El Salvador will continue to implement all steps necessary to fight terrorism in all its forms. That is why we believe it necessary for us all to reiterate and strengthen our commitment on the issue at this meeting.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom aligns itself with the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

Terrorism remains one of the greatest challenges to international peace, stability and security. The threat posed to us all, including by Al-Qaida and its affiliates, is real. The review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the upcoming adoption of draft resolution A/64/L.69, once more by consensus, reaffirm our collective commitment to working through the United Nations to counter the terrorist threat. We must harness that new impetus to effectively deliver the Strategy on the ground, where it matters the most.

A key area on which to focus our efforts is capacity-building. In this period of fiscal austerity, it is crucial that we prioritize our activities and direct them to those countries that are most vulnerable to the threat posed by terrorists. We must ensure that our efforts to counter the terrorist threat are comprehensive and coordinated in order to avoid the duplication of effort. Countries need to work together if we are going to succeed.

Therefore, we need to continue actively to share information among Member States and to use the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to full effect to promote discussion on the capability and capacity-building needs of Member States. The key gaps on which to target and upscale our capacity building assistance include border control, terrorist financing, the criminal justice sector and the promotion of cultural dialogue.

We welcome the progress towards the institutionalization of the CTITF. The CTITF will be key to facilitating coherence and coordination among its member entities and their work across a range of issues, from border control to countering the appeal of violent extremism. The CTITF Office can now work with CTITF entities to ensure that all members of the Task Force are mainstreaming counter-terrorism into their work and appreciating the impact that their work has on the Strategy's goals.

In order to implement fully all four pillars of the Strategy, we must find new ways to work more innovatively with a range of new partners on counter-terrorism. We must strengthen our global outreach with civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media. We need actively to build networks at the local, national and regional levels to help us deliver counter-terrorism effects. To help us build those new networks, we need to articulate better the work of the United Nations. That will go a long way towards reassuring others that the work of the United Nations on counter-terrorism goes beyond hard law enforcement efforts, and also works to help address the roots of terrorism. In addition, we should consider how we can incorporate civil society input into country assessments and formalize our relationships.

The terrorist threat is evolving. One example is the new trends in kidnapping for ransom among Al-Qaida affiliates. The United Kingdom believes that the counter-terrorism community needs to take this issue seriously. We understand from direct experience just how difficult kidnapping cases are. But we also know that ransoms cannot be excused as a necessary evil or seen as part of a legitimate toolkit used to resolve kidnappings. For many terrorist groups, ransoms are a vital source of money for funding the nuts and bolts of their operations — weapons, logistics and recruitment. As their spending grows, so does the threat that they pose. When major attacks can be put together for tens of thousands of dollars, $1 million dollars goes a very long way.

Last December, the Security Council adopted resolution 1904 (2009), in which it explicitly confirmed that ransom payments were subject to asset-freezing measures. If a State pays a ransom to an individual or group on the sanctions list, it contravenes sanctions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. It is that simple in law, but we recognize that its implementation may be challenging for some States. We therefore welcome the plans of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban to look at the implications of the regime as it applies to ransom payments.

We must not forget that it is the devastating impact of terrorism on its victims and their families in many parts of the world that motivate us to come together in New York to tackle the problem. The Strategy is an important product of our efforts, and rightly highlights the plight of victims of terrorism. The United Kingdom therefore urges the CTITF to do more to use its unique global convening power to bring victims together and get their voices and stories heard, building on the successful symposium of 2008. In addition, the CTITF should do more actively to support the work, and highlight the important contributions of, civil society to counter terrorism.

Mr. Shin Boonam (Republic of Korea): I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the President on convening this important meeting to review progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, following the first review in 2008.

We commend the hard work of Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, who has led the process of the Strategy review and developed the draft resolution that awaits action by the General Assembly (A/64/L.69).

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and his staff for the comprehensive and informative report contained in document A/64/818, of 17 June 2010, which was requested by the General Assembly in resolution 62/272.

The Republic of Korea shares the concern of the international community over terrorism as a serious threat to international peace and security. In that regard, the Republic of Korea strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their forms and manifestations and their alleged motives.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in September 2006, has provided a solid basis for comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism activities by the international community. An effective counter-terrorism approach should address all aspects of terrorism, including strengthening law enforcement and State capacity-building, denying terrorists access to weapons — especially weapons of mass destruction — suppressing the financing of terrorism, facilitating public-private cooperation and defending human rights. Fully convinced of the need for comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism efforts, the Republic of Korea is actively participating in international cooperation and strengthening its domestic measures to counter terrorism.

Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism that could possibly be exploited by terrorists can serve to complement the international community's efforts to counter terrorism. A range of efforts is being pursued globally, including the easing of socio-economic marginalization, the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and the integration of ethnic and religious minorities. In that regard, the Republic of Korea has tripled its official development assistance since 2000 and will continue to support international efforts in such areas as poverty reduction, disease control, human resource development and sustainable development, which can also be valuable in the efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The Republic of Korea has revised its national Anti-Terror Action Directive, which is the main legal basis of Korea's counter-terrorism system. The Directive defines the roles and responsibilities of relevant authorities and offices, enabling Government bodies to adopt individual measures to respond to different types of terrorist actions.

To prevent the financing of terrorism, the Republic of Korea enacted the Prohibition of Financing for Offences of Public Intimidation Act in December 2008. The main objective of the Act is to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, thus to control money-laundering by terrorist organizations in and through the country. The Republic of Korea's accession to the

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)-affiliated Financial Action Task Force in October 2009 allows it to actively participate in the process of setting and revising global anti-money-laundering and standards in combating the financing of terrorism, and to increase international cooperation.

The Republic of Korea is also making use of its advanced information technology to lead the fight against cyberterrorism. The distributed denial-of-service attacks are a strong reminder that cyberattacks have the power to paralyze national infrastructure. Together with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it is now time to make another serious attempt to adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would reinforce the legal network for preventing international terrorism.

The Republic of Korea has made efforts to help other States to build and enhance their counter-terrorism capacity through various assistance programmes. Such programmes involve the participation of governmental agencies. They cover a broad spectrum of projects, such as preventing crime and ensuring criminal justice, forensic science investigation, the prevention of money-laundering, maritime security, cybersecurity and drug control.

The Republic of Korea became a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee in November 2009. The Republic of Korea will continue to develop its assistance programmes in terms of substance and with a view to broadening the range of cooperation, reflecting the needs in the field of counter-terrorism capacity-building.

Welcoming the progress towards the finalization of the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the Republic of Korea expects that the CTITF will continue to play an important role in ensuring overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system and in promoting international cooperation and capacity-building.

As a State party to major international legal instruments of human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, the Republic of Korea has endeavoured to ensure that its various counter-terrorism measures comply with obligations under those international legal instruments. The Republic of Korea shares the view that effective counter-terrorism efforts and the protection of human rights are not contradictory but, rather, mutually reinforcing.

Recent terrorist attacks have demonstrated only too clearly that terrorism is an indiscriminate affront to humanity. Terrorism cannot be linked to a particular nationality, religion, civilization or culture. It is a common threat we all face, and as a result requires solidarity on the part of the international community. Standing united under the goal of ensuring peace and security for the world, the Republic of Korea takes this opportunity to reaffirm its strong commitment to the international community's tireless efforts to combat terrorism.

Mr. Staur (Denmark): The Belgian presidency has clearly outlined the positions of the European Union. I would, of course, like to align myself fully with that statement and reinforce some general points based on our own experience.

This meeting is indeed an occasion not only to review the Strategy but to celebrate that landmark achievement, which unites all of us on the basis of one single and holistic approach. This is truly remarkable in relation to an issue as sensitive and potentially divisive as counter-terrorism. If we shall have grounds to celebrate also at the next review of the Strategy, we must, however, stay ambitious. The Strategy remains an adequate framework but we need it to make even more of a difference on the ground. It is like riding a bicycle. You need to keep moving the pedals; otherwise you will fall over.

In moving forward, it is our suggestion that we navigate using the following bearings. We need to tear down the walls between the security community and the development community and between their respective agendas. It is increasingly clear that these dividing lines are artificial and that there is an intimate relationship between security and development. We can have no real security without development and no real development without security. This is true for all our countries, irrespective of their level of development.

Including counter-terrorism capacity-building as an aspect of development programmes is a delicate but nevertheless necessary task. Our national experience as an important donor country shows that this is possible. The report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818) also usefully highlights the links between development and social inclusion agendas, such as the effect youth employment could have on reducing marginalization

and thereby the potential for extremism and recruitment.

On the initiative and under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Denmark participated in organizing the first meeting of the counter-terrorism focal points in the ECOWAS region in the spring of 2010. One of the forceful points coming out of that process was exactly the strong interrelationship between a range of interlinked security and development challenges and the need to tackle them simultaneously. A report developed by the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation setting out these points is available, and it is our hope that countries in the region, other United Nations Member States and the United Nations system can follow up on the recommendations. Denmark will do what we can to facilitate that.

All relevant parts of the United Nations system need to be fully engaged. The CTITF should be commended for its efforts in this regard. Moving forward, this should increasingly involve United Nations bodies coming also from the development perspective. This applies in particular to the United Nations Development Programme but also to UNESCO. This is extremely important also because counter-terrorism and counter-radicalization measures should be reflected in national development plans or poverty reduction strategies that recognize links between development and security strategies if we want to make a difference.

Some United Nations bodies, such as the Terrorist Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and, increasingly, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) are active in the field either by implementing or identifying projects. This field presence should be further developed, and other relevant United Nations bodies should take inspiration from this and should also be appropriately reflected in relation to the renewal of the mandate of CTED later this year.

The commitment and efforts of each individual country and the full national ownership of the measures are fundamental. The importance of regional organizations and of regional centres cannot, however, be overestimated.

Terrorism, by its very nature, is a transborder phenomenon, and should be addressed as such. Indonesia and Australia have provided us with a beacon we can follow in the shape of the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. The Centre is playing an important role, not only for the two countries most directly involved but for the whole South-East Asian region, and has now also received considerable support from other donors. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the IGAD Capacity Building Programme against Terrorism are key to actions in East Africa, and ECOWAS is taking on a bigger role in West Africa. We therefore believe that the establishment of an institution that could do for South Asia what the Jakarta Centre has done for South-East Asia is very important, and we hope that this agenda can gain broad support and go forward swiftly.

While the goal of countering terrorism is shared around the world, questions have been raised about the means used. There is a perception and concern in global public opinion that efforts to strengthen law enforcement and other security-related counter-terrorism capacities have in some cases led to human rights violations and to the oppression of civil society and legitimate opposition. We need constantly to ensure that the instruments we use to fight terrorism, such as targeted sanctions, are in full compliance with human rights standards and reflect due process guarantees. If they are not, we will undermine the legitimacy of our fight, and thus its effectiveness. Fighting terrorism and protecting human rights are in no way conflicting goals. The notion of a trade-off is false.

Here we should move forward and bring together the security community and the human rights community. The approach should be not an ideological but a practical one. We need to focus on the concrete measures we have taken, to stay effective in our common fight against terrorism, and to try to identify ways to maximize due process and other guarantees for each measure. A better understanding of this at the practitioner level, maybe in the form of best practices, would be an important contribution to the implementation of the Strategy.

We have come a long way. If we want to be celebrating the Strategy again in two years' time, we need a continuing commitment to involvement, cooperation and implementation at the highest levels and in all relevant bodies. We are confident that this will happen.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (spoke in Spanish): I am grateful for the organization of this meeting, which we believe to be most timely. Acts of terrorism are a direct, heinous assault on human rights and one of the most serious threats to the peace and security of all peoples. We therefore unequivocally reject terrorism and any argument used to justify or, worse, glorify it.

That said, Costa Rica wishes to take this opportunity to express two concerns. The first relates to the growing confluence between the strategies, links and methods of terrorist groups and those of organized crime. There is a growing relationship between the arms trafficking practiced by terrorists and other criminals and money-laundering, drug trafficking and even the trafficking and exploitation of human beings. Our second concern is that the possibility of greater nuclear proliferation may facilitate terrorists' future access to components with the capacity for mass destruction.

The conclusion is clear. We are confronted by risks and networks of growing complexity and size, in the face of which the international community must offer an organized, coherent, decided, intelligent, systematic and systemic response. If we take this line of thought and action, we must not only consider whether we are doing well what we have decided to do, but also what new doctrines and methods reality imposes on us.

It is precisely this second review of the Global Strategy that gives us the opportunity once again to consider the progress or failures in its implementation, grasping the lessons that would allow us to improve it and, based on those lessons, to continue to make progress on a level commensurate with the size and character of these networks.

Costa Rica believes that the four pillars of the Strategy are equally important and mutually complementary. Our duty as States is to encourage their equitable, coordinated application on a national, global and regional scale. As my country believes firmly in multilateralism and international law, the importance of respecting human rights in the struggle against terrorism is a fundamental point of Costa Rican foreign policy. The adoption of effective policies to counter terrorism and the protection of human rights are mutually reinforcing. This is why, without losing its effectiveness, the fight against this scourge must be conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

In this regard, efforts to improve transparency and accountability are particularly important in the processes for listing and de-listing persons and entities associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban on the Security Council's consolidated list, established in accordance with resolution 1267 (1999). The need for an impartial, nimble system that allows listed individuals to exercise their right to defend themselves is essential. Costa Rica believes that the appointment of Ms. Kimberly Prost as the Ombudsperson for counter-terrorism is an important step in that direction, and we welcome it.

By conviction, and in compliance with its obligations and commitments, Costa Rica has taken important steps against terrorism at the national, global and regional levels. In 2006, we established an inter-institutional committee on terrorism that unites all national bodies involved in this area under the coordination of the Office of the President. The committee maintains relations with both the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism of the Organization of American States (OAS). On 16 March 2009, we enacted a law strengthening terrorism, which, among other measures, updates procedures for fighting terrorism, drug trafficking, money-laundering, human trafficking and related criminal activity. In addition, the law provides for tough punishments for those who help foment terrorism, defines the financing of terrorism as a crime, incorporates a system of prevention, control and suppression of this activity, and establishes requirements for greater transparency and awareness of clients in financial activities.

At the international level, Costa Rica participated with the other member States of the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation — Japan, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey — in organizing an international workshop for national counter-terrorism coordinators, which took place in Vienna in October 2009. In this way, we join Norway, Austria, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

At the regional level, our country cooperates closely in various efforts, particularly the Inter-American

Committee Against Terrorism, whose coordination with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee is essential for our countries.

In Central America, our immediate geographic and historical environment, we have increased and improved cooperation between our countries. However, our economic vulnerabilities reduce our Governments' direct capacity to act against terrorism and, especially, against organized crime. In the light of our Central American experience, we believe that the international community should improve its cooperation with those countries that, despite their willingness to fight such scourges, do not have enough resources to do so.

I conclude with a reaffirmation of our commitment to fighting terrorism as part of a broader commitment to human rights and to the well-being, security and peace of our citizens and those of the entire world.

Mr. Badji (Senegal) (spoke in French): I endorse the statement made by the representative of Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and welcome the holding of this second biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which offers us another excellent opportunity to further reaffirm our firm commitment to acting together to confront the threat of terrorism.

I also welcome the appointment of our colleague and friend, Dr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, as facilitator of the second biennial review. The outstanding manner in which he guided negotiations on the draft resolution (A/64/L.69) before us confirmed his great qualities as an academic and a diplomat, with which we were already familiar. I would also like to commend the entire team that supported him in that undertaking.

The historic adoption on 8 September 2006 of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was undoubtedly the crowning achievement of our collective mobilization to deliver a global coordinated response to the scourge of terrorism. In truth, the scale of the terrorist threat is such that no State can effectively tackle it alone. Therein lies the merit of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, whose comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation would surely represent a significant step forward in our struggle to eradicate terrorism.

As provided for in paragraph 14 of resolution 62/272, the task we are again undertaking at this second biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is to take stock of its implementation with a view to assessing progress already achieved, determining areas requiring additional action and identifying, above all, potential gaps in order to make the necessary corrections.

Above all, we need to take stock of the implementation of the Strategy by Member States, which have the primary responsibility to that end, and to assess the action undertaken in that framework within the United Nations system and at the regional level. The report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818), whose publication we welcome, broadly informs us of the activities undertaken by the United Nations system to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since the first biennial review. We also have an opportunity to exchange information at this debate on what we have done in this field as Member States. We therefore hope that this meeting will allow us to agree on the key actions to be taken, at all levels identified in the Strategy, with a view to enhancing its implementation, which is already on the right track, and to give it further momentum.

It is pleasing to note that considerable progress has been made in the implementation since the first biennial review, held in September 2006. This progress is a result, in particular, of actions undertaken by States both at the national level and within the framework of regional or international cooperation. They also constitute, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report, the fruit of considerable efforts deployed by many United Nations bodies, programmes, funds and specialized agencies and by regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to promote, inter alia, economic development, conflict prevention and a culture of peace and a dialogue between civilizations. Among the activities undertaken in these areas, initiatives to strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue are particularly important in the struggle to eradicate conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism because they promote better understanding between peoples and the emergence of a greater culture of tolerance.

Dialogue among civilizations, combating prejudice, tolerance and strengthening cooperation between religions and cultures are undoubtedly among the most effective ways to promote cooperation and

achieve success in countering terrorism. It is by rejuvenating the ideals of peace, dialogue and tolerance that we will contribute effectively to meeting the challenge of ensuring for present and future generations a peaceful and safer world, free of gratuitous hatred and violence.

Another challenge that we must meet in the struggle against terrorism is that of development. In that respect, there is a need to stress that, in addition to our efforts to establish true dialogue among peoples and to combat wanton hatred and ignorance, we need to work to create decent living conditions for all by combating abject poverty through a true commitment to promoting development.

System-wide coherence in countering terrorism, as well as capacity-building and assistance to Member States, are crucial to a comprehensive and equal implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy. According to the report, the methodology developed by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in the context of its integrated assistance initiative, allowing States to seek the help of Task Force members following a simple procedure via a single focal point, deserves to be commended in that respect. I also welcome the adoption on 24 December 2009 of resolution 64/235 on the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which calls for greater interaction between it and the Member States.

Senegal has demonstrated its commitment to fighting terrorism by adopting a series of internal measures to strengthen the relevant existing legal and institutional mechanisms and by actively cooperating in the fight against terrorism at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

As a party to 13 relevant international counter-terrorism conventions, my country is convinced that the ultimate success of our common undertaking to eradicate terrorism will depend largely on the combined efforts of all actors concerned in the framework of sincere, dynamic and inclusive international cooperation. Senegal also participates at the regional level, inter alia, as a member of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, in the forum of representatives of the intelligence services of its 23 member States, which offers a framework for exchanging information and assessing the terrorist threat.

We are also heavily involved in the Economic Community of West African States, and sincerely thank Denmark for its valuable assistance to the countries of the West African subregion. At the same time, Senegal has also been a member since 2006 of the Trans-Saharan Partnership against Terrorism, which seeks to strengthen the counter-terrorism capacities of its member States.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the importance that Senegal attaches to respecting human rights law and international law in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Ayashi (Jordan) (spoke in Arabic): My country has a long history of dealing with and fighting the phenomena of violence and terrorism. Jordan has witnessed attacks against its national security in the past, since the time when the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Abdullah al-Awad ibn al-Hussein was assassinated. Terrorism has also targeted our citizens and institutions both inside and outside the country. Therefore, Jordan's firm policy unequivocally condemns all forms and manifestations of terrorism committed by anyone, anywhere and for whatever purposes. We believe that terrorism is an international scourge and must be dismantled and uprooted through coordinated international efforts. It recognizes no borders and no homeland and is among the most dangerous threats to international peace and security.

Terrorism will not be fully eradicated solely through preventive security and administrative or precautionary measures. The fundamental causes leading to the proliferation of terrorism, in particular its economic, political and legal causes, must be addressed. We confirm that the rule of law and human rights must be respected in the fight against terrorism at the national and the international levels. In that context, Jordan rejects the linking of terrorism to any particular group, religion, culture or nationality. Terrorism is a scourge from which all humanity suffers, irrespective of its different regimes, ideas and beliefs. This message from Amman seeks to spread the culture of peace, equality and tolerance.

The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars in 2006 (resolution 60/288), and Jordan considers this review of the Strategy to be extremely important. We stress our unity in condemning terrorism and in fighting it.

Allow me to thank His Excellency Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and his team for their great efforts in preparing draft resolution A/64/L.69 on the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/64/818), "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy". We also confirm the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Jordan has taken many firm and comprehensive measures to combat terrorism and to maintain the rule of law and peace and security. Jordan has also made administrative and legislative changes to conform to international norms and agreements. My country has modified its penal code, adopted a counter-terrorism law and modified the law against money-laundering in line with international efforts to track, prosecute and put an end to terrorists and their destructive acts.

Jordan has also taken other measures, including prohibiting terrorist organizations from using its territory. We enforce strict security measures at our borders, in particular on identification verification, and our customs authorities have also implemented certain measures. With respect to banking security, we request verification for money transfers and cooperate with INTERPOL and many friendly countries in countering terrorism.

Jordan has signed many bilateral and international agreements, revealing its commitment to cooperate in extending mutual legal assistance. Additionally, Jordan has signed many international counter-terrorism agreements and enacted many such agreements at the international level and among the Arab States, raising the alarm against terrorism and calling for its defeat.

Finally, Jordan counts on the successful implementation of the Strategy because the fight against terrorism will be successful not only through national and regional efforts, but through comprehensive international efforts as well, and the Strategy is one of its main pillars. We are more than ready here to maintain and strengthen our cooperation with all United Nations organizations in order to ensure the success of these efforts.

Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) (spoke in Spanish): On behalf of my delegation, permit me to add to the appreciation expressed for organizing this meeting of the Assembly to carry out the second biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the plan of action (see resolution 60/288, annex), both adopted in 2006. My delegation fully adheres to the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union. I also wish to express our thanks for the work done by Mr. Abdulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh who facilitated preparation of the draft resolution (A/64/L.69) submitted for our consideration.

Four years ago, the General Assembly took a historic step by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus. Spain played a prominent role in its inception, and it is now the responsibility of all to ensure its effective implementation. We therefore welcome the thorough report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818) before us today, which sets out the most outstanding achievements of the entire United Nations system in its efforts to implement the Global Strategy. Spain believes that it is indispensable to adopt measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as highlighted in section I of the plan of action of the Strategy.

On this point, I recall that Spain actively contributes, together with Turkey and many other countries and organizations, to the Alliance of Civilizations, an initiative introduced six years ago to this Assembly by the President of the Government of Spain, which was then undertaken by the Secretary-General. Spain has actively supported the convening of the forums of the Alliance, held, successively, in Madrid in 2008, Istanbul in 2009, and Rio de Janeiro in 2010. As the result of all these efforts, in November 2009 the General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 64/14 on the Alliance of Civilizations.

Another priority action for Spain in the context of the fight against terrorism is the promotion of international solidarity in support of the victims of terrorism. Spain believes that victims must play a key role in any strategy to fight terrorism. We have therefore developed a system to assist, respond and provide reparations to victims, which I dare to describe as one of the most comprehensive in the world. I take this opportunity to offer to share our experience and to offer our cooperation in this area to any State that wishes to implement similar measures to support victims of terrorism.

Spain has welcomed and supported the organization by the Office of the Task Force of the International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism, convened by the Secretary-General here in 2008. We would like to see a similar meeting take place in the near future. Accordingly, we call on the Secretary-General and the Office of the Task Force to take the necessary steps to make this possible.

Spain should also have liked to see the necessary objective of promoting and protecting the rights of the victims of terrorism recognized in the draft resolution before us today (A/64/L.69). Because of time constraints, it was not possible to do so, but we trust that this important issue will be duly taken up in future reviews of the implementation of the Global Strategy.

With regard to measures to prevent and to combat terrorism, I wish to highlight the fact that Spain has ratified the 16 conventions and protocols of the United Nations that constitute the international normative framework for counter-terrorism measures. Spain will continue working for the consolidation and development of this framework, which should lead to the future conclusion of a global United Nations counter-terrorism convention.

With regard to measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard, Spain has made periodic contributions to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Spain also provides financial support to the technical support work conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate of the Security Council, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and other regional and sectoral organizations and institutions, particularly in Africa.

Finally, in order to develop the section of the Global Strategy on measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as a fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism, Spain has promoted an international counter-terrorism approach that gives consistent priority to international legality, respect for human rights and rule of law instruments. Spain is firmly convinced that respect for human rights and the rule of law should be the basis and the limit for any action of the State and the international community in the fight against terrorism.

Spain firmly supports active and efficient multilateralism in the fight against terrorism. We believe that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a valuable instrument to respond to the global threat of terrorism. To that end, we will need the firm commitment and cooperation of all, and the full implementation of the Global Strategy is an essential path thereto.

Mr. Saripudin (Indonesia): Let me begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/818). Following the first biennial review of the Strategy two years ago, it is a very comprehensive report and contains gratifying information about the work being undertaken both within the United Nations system and by Member States.

Indonesia would also like to express its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, for his tireless efforts in facilitating the Counter-Terrorism Strategy review consultations. It is our hope that the draft resolution emanating from those consultations (A/64/L.69) will be adopted very soon by consensus.

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) delivered by the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam and the statement of the Organization of the Islamic Conference delivered earlier by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Counter-Terrorism Strategy is indeed of great importance to members of the international community. Indonesia believes, however, that it must be implemented with full recognition for the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly as they pertain to the sovereign equality of States and their territorial integrity and political independence.

Having seen the menace of terrorism at its most reprehensible, Indonesia welcomes the full implementation of the four pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have worked tirelessly in this direction. For several years now, our national response to the challenge of terrorism has followed these pillars, and we believe that they provide the required holistic framework that can guarantee coordination and success.

At the national level, Indonesia has ratified seven of the universal counter-terrorism instruments. We

have also signed the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, and are in the process of ratifying the 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

At the bilateral level, we continue to develop or strengthen cooperation with various countries, including the Russian Federation, the United States, France, the Netherlands and India.

Regionally, Indonesia continues to work assiduously with various bodies, including ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and the Asia-Middle East Dialogue. Our focus includes preventing and combating terrorist financing, increased cooperation in investigations and the sharing of information among law enforcement authorities, as well as further exchanges of ideas on tightening border controls, capacity-building and interfaith dialogue.

In this regard, let me point out how successful the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, which is a capacity-strengthening collaboration between Indonesia and Australia, has been. As a regional training centre for law enforcement officers engaged in combating transnational crime, specifically counter-terrorism, the Centre has, since its establishment in 2004, conducted more than 200 courses for participants from 45 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and trained over 6,000 participants in the process.

Similarly, in the effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, we have actively taken the lead by encouraging, hosting and participating in a variety of interfaith dialogues with other countries. And in recognition of the critical importance of seeking a balance between promoting tolerance and freedom of expression, Indonesia and Norway have sponsored the Global Inter-Media Dialogue three times since 2006.

We continue to be committed to promoting the effective implementation of the resolution 1267 (1999) sanctions regime. Of great importance to us is the need to improve its procedures, which would be of assistance to Member States in the implementation process.

Indonesia continues to clarify and strengthen its national strategy on counter-terrorism, which was adopted through a ministerial decision in 2006. In addition to a wide range of existing legislative measures aimed at countering terrorist activity, Indonesia is currently drafting legislation on terrorist financing. In order to strengthen coordination relating to the issue of terrorism, Indonesia, through a presidential regulation, has established a national coordinating body for combating terrorism with responsibility for, among other things, implementing the five universal counter-terrorism strategies, namely, prevention, protection, enforcement, preparedness and recovery.

We will also continue to pay greater attention to the protection of the victims of terrorism, an effort for which Indonesia now has various legislative provisions, including a provision concerning witnesses in terrorism cases.

It remains the belief of Indonesia that the only way to fight terrorism successfully is to implement the measures incorporated in the Strategy in a consistent, transparent, balanced and comprehensive manner. A key element here is to address those conditions that are deemed conducive to the spread of terrorism. If undertaken by all stakeholders diligently and universally, we can make substantial headway.

One of the most important measures is the extension of technical assistance to Member States in order to help them enhance their capacity, as required by the third pillar of the Strategy. We also support enhanced dialogue among Member States with the objective of promoting international, regional and subregional cooperation in the implementation of the Strategy.

In this connection, Indonesia welcomed resolution 64/235 of 24 December 2009, by which the General Assembly institutionalized the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in order to enhance its coordination role. We believe that this is a critical step forward in the battle against terrorism because it provides the required overall coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts in the United Nations system. At the same time, we call for the strengthening of transparency and coordination in its work, with extra attention being paid to the need to avoid duplication of work in all United Nations counter-terrorism activities. In addition, we urge the

CTITF to work more closely with Member States so as to enhance their ability to fulfil their role in the implementation of the Strategy.

Finally, my delegation looks forward to negotiating a comprehensive and balanced convention that respects the principles of international law and humanitarian law, as well as national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Khazaee (Islamic Republic of Iran): The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We appreciate the efforts of Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, in facilitating the negotiations on the draft resolution on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/L.69).

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference group, and fully endorses the principled position the group has consistently taken on the issue of terrorism.

The adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006 was a landmark step towards an integrated and collective approach, under the auspices of the United Nations, to tackling the problem of terrorism worldwide. It was an attempt to provide an inclusive remedy to a global challenge. The Strategy remains a living document that should be reviewed and adapted to the new circumstances as appropriate.

The Strategy is built on a categorical condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose. The Strategy's call for removing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism is a realistic approach to addressing this multifaceted phenomenon. It is imperative to understand that terrorism cannot be eliminated if the environment that breeds hatred, violence and chaos, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, injustice and exclusion, is allowed to thrive.

States play the key role in eliminating terrorism. A holistic approach to countering terrorism requires collective will on the part of all States to develop a culture of peace and tolerance, as well as a commitment to the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Four years after the adoption of the Strategy, one may ask how effectively terrorism has been countered. The facts on the ground are not very encouraging, despite many efforts undertaken at the national, regional and global levels to prevent and combat terrorism. Terrorist acts continue to target civilians, particularly in our region of the Middle East, and an increasing number of innocent men, women and children fall victim to brutal acts of terrorism. Unfortunately, many more are killed and injured as part of the so-called collateral damage of occupying forces' military strikes.

On the other hand, certain Powers persist in propagating a culture of terror and intimidation in pursuing their national interests, and in doing so they offer a bad model to be followed by extremists and terrorist groups. It is almost impossible to overcome terrorism while a culture of terror and intimidation is expanded by certain Powers. Moreover, some States insist on applying double standards in dealing with terrorist groups by acquiescing to certain terrorist groups that they regard as beneficial to their narrow political interests.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and practices, including State terrorism. It is our firm belief that resort to indiscriminate violence and terrorist acts, whether by terrorist groups or by State military and security forces, killing and maiming innocent people and generating terror and intimidation among civilians are criminal acts that cannot be justified in any manner.

My country has long been a target of terrorism supported and encouraged by certain foreign Powers that regard terrorism as one of the tools at their disposal to exert pressure on countries like Iran. The most recent terrorist act, carried out on 16 July 2010 in a mosque in the south-eastern city of Zahedan, killed and injured more than 200 innocent people. This inhuman act was carried out by the remaining elements of the terrorist group Jundullah, which has carried out a string of terrorist acts in south-eastern Iran over the past four years. These terrorist activities are, in part, the result of the prevailing disorder and violence caused by foreign invasion and interference in the region.

There is also evidence that those terrorist activities were actively supported by foreign military and security services. Just a few months ago, the Islamic Republic of Iran managed to capture the leader of the terrorist group Jundullah. There is undeniable evidence, including his own confession, that he enjoyed extensive support from certain countries that have military a presence in our neighbouring countries.

The biannual reviews of the Strategy are an opportunity to renew our commitment to implementing the Strategy in all its four pillars and in a consistent and integrated manner. It goes without saying that the responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy lies with Member States, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has the important task of coordinating the United Nations counter-terrorism activities. We trust that the institutionalization of the CTITF will contribute to the better functioning of that important United Nations body within its mandate. We also look forward to meaningful interactions between the general membership and the CTITF and to regular reporting by the Task Force to Member States.

We would also like to highlight that the involvement of the United Nations specialized agencies in United Nations counter-terrorism activities under the CTITF should not affect their mandates and/or their much-needed operational activities.

A consensus legal definition of terrorism would very much contribute to the successful implementation of the Strategy. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of the resolution 46/51, which in its preamble reaffirms

> "the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all peoples under colonial and racist regimes and other forms of alien domination and foreign occupation, and uphold[s] the legitimacy of their struggle, in particular the struggle of national liberation movements, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration on Principles of International Law".

We are concerned about the increase in terrorist acts in our region, which has been mainly brought about or triggered by the ongoing conflicts imposed by non-regional Powers. The unparalleled rise in terrorism in recent years, which has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent people and resulted in huge economic damage and instability, has been mainly generated or fuelled by conflicts and wars inflicted upon the region from outside.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has spared no effort in fighting terrorism. We stand ready to cooperate with other countries, especially our neighbours, and with the relevant United Nations bodies. Iran has been keen to improve its overall capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and crime.

The accession of the Islamic Republic of Iran to three international instruments against terrorism — the 1988 Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, its Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, and the 1991 Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection — was recently endorsed by Parliament.

Moreover, the Anti-Money-Laundering Act, which has been in force since early 2008, provides the necessary and sufficient legal tools to prevent and fight the laundering of the proceeds of any crime. The establishment of the Financial Information Unit was one of the results of this Act, which is essential to improving information-gathering on illegal financial activities. Accession to the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism is also under way.

We have also benefited from the technical assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in combating terrorism and crime through a number of joint projects and workshops. A number of initiatives have also been taken at the bilateral and regional levels — particularly among the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and trilaterally between Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan — to promote cooperation against terrorism and transnational organized crime, especially drug trafficking, given the fact that drug trafficking has been used as the main financial source for some terrorist groups in the region. A good number of bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding have been concluded to strengthen mutual legal cooperation and judicial assistance in combating organized crime and terrorist acts.

For decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been at the forefront of a full-scale war against transnational drug mafias. Thousands of Iranian law

enforcement personnel have lost their lives, and billions of dollars have been spent to combat drug traffickers and to interdict opium shipments. According to the most recent report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/65/93), more than 6,900 tons of opium — or 89 per cent of the world total in 2009 — were produced in neighbouring Afghanistan. Most of this product is trafficked across Iran's borders. We urge the international community to pay more attention to this issue. We have shouldered a great burden, largely without receiving minimal assistance from the international community, but we should note that no country can tackle this scourge single-handedly.

In our efforts to uproot terrorism, due attention should be paid to all ways and means that may be used by terrorist groups to pursue their dangerous activities. In that context, we share the concern that terrorist groups may increasingly use the Internet, both in campaigning for their vicious cause and in pursuing their criminal activities. That needs due consideration by States and the relevant United Nations bodies.

Terrorism is a despicable crime that should be rejected in all its forms by and against whomever it may be committed. Selectivity and double standards in dealing with terrorist groups are real impediments to eliminating terrorism. Likewise, linking terrorism with any religion, nationality or culture must be rejected. Such an unwise approach towards terrorism will only lead to distrust, hatred and division among nations. It is imperative that we redouble our collective efforts to promote dialogue and tolerance among civilizations and cultures — as was mentioned by my colleague from Indonesia — and to counter disrespect for and defamation of religions.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): I thank the President for convening this plenary meeting to consider the progress made since the first review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its plan of action two years ago.

I express my appreciation to the facilitator, Ambassador Momen of Bangladesh, and his expert team for leading the process of the negotiation of the outcome document of this meeting. We welcome the draft resolution (A/64/L.69) agreed upon by all delegations, and believe that it represents a solid basis for the future implementation of the Strategy.

At the outset, allow me to reiterate that Croatia firmly believes that the United Nations should play a central role in the global struggle against terrorism. The Strategy represents an overarching framework that brings together all Member States, United Nations bodies and agencies and other counter-terrorism partners. All countries and other relevant stakeholders should be committed to the full and integrated implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy.

My country has aligned itself with the statement delivered earlier today on behalf of the European Union and fully supports the main messages contained therein. However, allow me to provide the Assembly with a brief account of Croatia's implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and international levels.

Since the first review, Croatia has adopted a national strategy for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. That landmark document is guided by the principles and values enshrined in the Croatian Constitution and the United Nations Charter and is based on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant international legal documents in this field. The coordination of implementation at the national level of all relevant international instruments and initiatives in the area of counter-terrorism is carried out by our inter-agency working group for the suppression of terrorism, which has been operational since 2001 and is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.

The Global Strategy describes broad and diverse measures under its first pillar. In that regard, Croatia is involved in a number of regional activities with the aim of preventing and suppressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Furthermore, during its two-year membership of the Security Council, Croatia was actively engaged in trying to find long-term solutions to a number of prolonged and unresolved conflicts.

Allow me also to remind the Assembly that Croatia chaired the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council in 2008 and 2009, while, during our presidency of the Council in December 2008 the Croatian President chaired a thematic debate on global security and international terrorism. The outcome of that meeting was a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/45) in which the Council, inter alia, called on all Member States to renew the degree of

solidarity manifested immediately after the tragic events of 11 September 2001 and to redouble their efforts to tackle global terrorism.

Croatia continues to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping and is currently participating in nine peacekeeping missions on the ground. Croatia also looks forward to an increased and strengthened role for the Peacebuilding Commission. As a country that has gradually undergone a transformation from recipient country to donor of development assistance, Croatia actively participates in international activities aimed at achieving sustainable development and eliminating potential factors of instability.

Croatia has been active in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue in close cooperation with UNESCO and regional organizations. In particular, Croatia has contributed to intensifying regional dialogue in South-East Europe at the highest level, thus creating an atmosphere of good-neighbourly relations. Croatia became a member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations in May 2008 and recently adopted its national plan in that connection, which serves as an important and useful tool for building tolerance and understanding among nations. Croatia welcomes the first regional strategy of the Alliance of Civilizations for the countries of South-East Europe, adopted in Sarajevo in 2009, and looks forward to the adoption of the regional strategy and action plan for the Mediterranean.

Croatia is also active within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, where Croatia has chaired the Committee of Experts on Terrorism. Bearing in mind the need to prohibit incitement to commit terrorist acts and to prevent such conduct, Croatia has ratified a number of Council of Europe conventions and protocols on terrorism. Croatia is also advocating for other countries to use those legal instruments, as they are open to signature and ratification by States non-members of the Council of Europe.

Under the second pillar of the Strategy, Croatia has undertaken a wide array of measures in order to prevent and combat terrorism, which represents a serious threat to international peace and security as it attempts to undermine the core values of the modern world. Croatia has ratified 14 key international conventions on the suppression of terrorism, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In addition, Croatia is active in the development and early use of monitoring mechanisms for those two Conventions. Croatia has fully harmonized its legislation with the European Union framework decision on combating terrorism of June 2002.

Accordingly, our domestic legislation has been adjusted as well. In 2008, an important set of amendments was adopted to the criminal code as new offences had been introduced, such as public instigation to terrorism and recruitment and training for terrorism. That enabled the direct incorporation of provisions of international and regional legal instruments, including requirements of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

Furthermore, the new International Restrictive Measures Act was adopted in 2008. The Act enables more comprehensive and efficient implementation of sanctions regimes, including counter-terrorism sanctions adopted within the framework of the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations, including restrictive measures introduced by Croatia in accordance with other obligations that are in conformity with international law.

Croatia has also continued its cooperation with INTERPOL and the European Union in the area of enhancing border security and control of lost and stolen travel documents. Croatia has to date signed numerous bilateral treaties on police cooperation with other States and international organizations, including with all of our neighbouring countries.

Under the third pillar of the Strategy, Croatia supports the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which is responsible for ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach in implementing the Strategy, which has been comprehensively elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/818). Croatia welcomes the progress made in the final stage of the institutionalization of the Task Force pursuant to resolution 64/235, adopted by this body in December 2009. We believe that providing funding from the regular budget for the CTITF's core operations will positively contribute to the coordination and harmonization of United Nations system-wide counter-terrorism efforts, as well as to providing support for the

efforts of Member States to implement the Strategy in all its aspects.

Croatian authorities have enjoyed constructive cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna and with its Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as with the OSCE, by actively participating in their various counter-terrorism conferences, workshops and seminars. Similar events have also been organized at the national level for the purpose of educating law enforcement officials, state attorneys, judges and customs officers.

With regard to the fourth pillar, Croatia believes that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are indeed complementary and mutually reinforcing. Croatia has ratified a large number of international treaties and set up the necessary domestic measures to ensure full respect for human rights and a rule-of-law-based national criminal justice system. The protection of the highest human rights standards is enshrined in the Croatian Constitution. In our national strategy for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, special attention has been focused on the protection of human rights. Any measures taken to combat terrorism fully comply with our obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Finally, I believe that this second review will confirm the commitment of all participants to the implementation of the Strategy and chart the way forward towards reinforcing the consensus of the international community in fighting this heinous scourge.

Mr. Gouider (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I, too, would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his useful report (A/64/818), and the facilitator, Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and his co-facilitator, our colleague Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah of Pakistan, whose tireless and well-appreciated work contributed to facilitating the arduous negotiations in recent weeks.

The General Assembly, which has a central role within the United Nations system, in 2006 adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which have served as the framework for combating terrorism. It is up to us to implement the pillars in a balanced and equal manner, bearing in mind that this is an ongoing process subject to periodic review against the backdrop of the provisions of international law in their entirety.

While we take note of the progress that has been made, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General, and fully associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, my country nevertheless believes that the progress made does not yet amount to the implementation of the Strategy's pillars. In fact, the implementation of the Strategy is still far from achieving the goals of the first pillar, namely, measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. The consensus we have reached to put aside justifications for terrorism should not obviate the need to define the phenomenon of terrorism and to carry out an objective assessment of the sources and conditions conducive to tension and the breeding of terrorism — for example, the illegal use of force, aggression, occupation, the denial of the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, injustice and various forms of economic and political marginalization. We cannot continue to ignore these conditions and sources, to apply double standards, to resort to pre-prepared accusations and to link terrorism to a specific religion, nationality, culture, ethnic group or geographic area.

With regard to the Strategy's second pillar — measures to prevent and combat terrorism — there is still a need for more effective measures. Without going into detail as to the necessary measures, we believe that preventing the funding of terrorism in all its forms, including the taking of hostages for ransom, merits special attention at the national and international levels, and that political asylum should adhere to the noble humanitarian objectives for which it was established. Greater effort is also needed in strengthening State capacities and providing increased technical assistance to enable countries to prevent and combat terrorism, as clearly called for by the Strategy's third pillar.

All of this should be done without sidelining measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the primacy of the rule of law as the cornerstone for combating terrorism, as set out in the Strategy's fourth and last pillar.

As the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee was able to see during its last visit, my

country has adopted a series of steps aimed at implementing the Strategy. We call on all Member States, which have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy, to bolster their efforts in that regard. We also call for strengthening the role of the United Nations system. In that connection, we underscore the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), chaired by Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde. We believe that the CTITF should play an effective role that involves all States in a clear and transparent manner.

I also recall the importance of adhering to all existing international legal instruments and arrangements, which should be complemented by the comprehensive counter-terrorism convention currently being drafted and by the holding of a General Assembly session resulting in a clear definition of terrorism that distinguishes that phenomenon from the legitimate resistance to occupation. The ultimate purpose should be to achieve the goals of the international community to eliminate the causes and manifestations of terrorism and to establish a world in which everyone can enjoy peace and security.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): Let me take this opportunity, at the very outset, to offer my congratulations to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, on his outstanding efforts in facilitating consultations on the draft resolution on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/L.69). We also thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/64/818) on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy, which highlights the efforts of the United Nations system in that regard.

Terrorism is the most abhorrent and heinous crime against humanity as a whole; indeed, it is the scourge of our times. It continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat not only to global security but also to the core values of the United Nations. It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, as criminal and unjustifiable. We therefore reiterate that no cause, no matter how seemingly just, can excuse terrorism. As a victim of terrorism and as its worst sufferer for many recent decades, India has an abiding interest in greater and more meaningful international cooperation to counter and combat terrorism.

The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a landmark in the fight against terrorism. The four pillars of the Strategy deal with the menace of terrorism in a balanced manner that addresses all aspects, contributing as well as preventive. The institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2009 contributed to strengthening United Nations efforts to counter terrorism by providing an umbrella under which different United Nations entities can effectively implement the Strategy in a coordinated and coherent manner. We are confident that the institutionalization of the CTITF will streamline the overall work of the United Nations system in countering terrorism. As the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy rests with Member States, we hope that the institutionalization process will also provide a useful platform for the practical engagement of the CTITF with Member States, guided by their individual needs.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a unique, universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The Strategy is intended to play a pivotal role in guiding counter-terrorism efforts undertaken at the global, regional, subregional and national levels. The Strategy needs to be implemented in an integrated manner in all its four pillars. The various United Nations and other specialized agencies have to ensure that counter-terrorism approaches and measures cater to regional, national, international and functional specificities to facilitate multidimensional technical assistance needs. In that regard, the CTITF has to play a crucial role in ensuring coordinated and coherent efforts across the United Nations system to counter-terrorism.

India has firmly put in place a policy, strategic, administrative, operational and legal framework to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its four pillars. We are willing to share our experiences in the implementation of the Strategy and to provide assistance, bilaterally or multilaterally, as necessary and needed in the larger efforts to counter the threat of terrorism at the global, regional, subregional and national levels. We are also willing to share relevant information with competent United Nations agencies as and when the need arises.

The draft resolution on the second review of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an important step forward. Stressing the primary responsibility of States to implement the Strategy, it lays emphasis on the implementation of the Strategy by the United Nations system in a coordinated and coherent manner and on the need to avoid the duplication of efforts undertaken by various United Nations entities.

We are happy to see that the draft resolution encourages Member States to get involved in the work of the CTITF, not merely to receive regular quarterly briefings from the Task Force on its work but also to provide the CTITF with policy guidance and feedback on its work. This interactive mechanism will be immensely beneficial both for Member States and for the United Nations system in their joint efforts to combat terrorism.

We are also happy to note the plans of the CTITF to bring its work to a wider audience through the development of a comprehensive website. That is a significant effort, as the work of the CTITF is relevant not only to Member States and United Nations entities but also to civil society at large. Encouraging Member States to participate in the work of the CTITF will further add value to the legitimacy and credibility of United Nations efforts to counter terrorism.

In paragraph 139 of his report, the Secretary-General has very aptly pointed out that

> "The comprehensiveness of implementing the Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and conclude the convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism effort."

In conclusion, I wish to reassure the General Assembly that we will actively engage with the CTITF and all other relevant entities of the United Nations in the efforts of the Organization to counter terrorism.

Mr. Chekkori (Morocco) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. I should now like to make some comments in my national capacity.

I first wish to thank the President for his initiative to convene this important meeting on the second review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted in September 2006. I would also like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, and to the working group he led for their efforts to produce a draft resolution on the second review of the Strategy (A/64/L.69).

The Kingdom of Morocco fully condemns all acts of terrorism. We are convinced that nothing can justify terrorism, irrespective of its motivations and goals. The terrorist acts that have taken place in the past two years are evidence of the fact that the fight against terrorism is not yet over and that, despite all the efforts that have been made, terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

In that regard, the scope, diversity and severity of the terrorist threat leads us to conclude that, despite its importance, actions by individual States cannot replace an effective, continuous and collective commitment to putting an end to terrorism as a real cross-border threat that can strike any nation regardless of religion or culture or level of development. In that respect, we reject all attempts, whatever their sources, to link terrorism to any religious or ethnic group, culture or faith, since terrorism denies all religious, moral or humanitarian values.

The United Nations is the appropriate and legitimate framework for Member States to fight collectively against terrorism. Member States are working within that multilateral framework to draw up collective legislative measures against terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is one of the most noteworthy signs of the international community's resolve to eliminate this dangerous scourge and improve the performance of the United Nations in that regard.

However, four years after the adoption of the Strategy, its success will be assessed based on events and results on the ground. This General Assembly meeting is a real opportunity to take stock of the progress we have made in implementing the provisions of the Strategy. In that respect, we would like to express our satisfaction at the discussions on the provisions of the draft resolution before us today in the context of the second review. The draft resolution

reaffirms the basic principles agreed in resolution 60/288, adopted in 2006. It also contains a new provision on interaction between Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, institutionalized through resolution 64/235 of 2009, to achieve greater transparency and enable Member States to assess actions to be undertaken by the Task Force and receive observations and guidance on the general policy on efforts made towards the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Moreover, we are satisfied with the contents of paragraph 11 of the draft resolution before us, which reaffirm the need for enhanced dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials of Member States. That provision is very encouraging with regard to the speedy and operational implementation of the important proposals submitted by Saudi Arabia on establishing a good basis for the promotion and enhancement of cooperation, national capacity-building and sharing of experiences on counter-terrorism.

My country has been active whenever signs of terrorism have appeared and has worked with other countries to establish a comprehensive and multilateral national approach in line with the United Nations Strategy and its four pillars. My country's approach in the political, legal, security, economic, social and cultural fields has succeeded only because all our citizens have totally rejected terrorism and are committed to the values of tolerance, coexistence and the culture of peace. However, despite its success, that national approach will be sufficient only in conjunction with unconditional regional and international commitment and efforts to counter all forms of terrorism, in particular its funding and root causes, especially in its new form as transnational organized crime, which is increasing its links with terrorist networks worldwide.

We are very concerned about the ongoing terrorist activity in the corridor between the Arab Mahreb and the Sahel and the link between such activity and drug trafficking, the small arms trade and clandestine immigration. However, we believe that the approach to be adopted by countries concerned about the region's security must be based on solidarity, constructive dialogue, indivisibility and comprehensiveness, and that all parties should shoulder their responsibilities and form partnerships with the international organizations, in particular the United Nations, that assist countries in building their national capacities to counter terrorism.

In conclusion, as we participate in this important review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we call for the consideration of new ideas for the next review, in accordance with the spirit and letter of paragraphs 16 and 17 of the draft resolution before us, so as to uphold the credibility and vitality of the Strategy that we adopted four years ago.

Mr. Slapničar (Slovenia): In the interests of time, I would like to highlight some of the points in the written statement being distributed.

While Slovenia aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union, I would like to make a couple of general remarks from a national perspective and present some national activities undertaken in support of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since September 2008.

The United Nations remains the main international forum for action against terrorism. The consensus that enabled the adoption of the Strategy four years ago remains strong. The implementation of the Strategy gained pace with a number of activities at the international, regional, subregional and national levels. We recognize that significant progress has been achieved, yet much remains to be done. A comprehensive, balanced approach to the four pillars and sustained implementation remain crucial. We agree that a regular review is necessary to compare notes, improve our capabilities and take a fresh look at the issues that we are dealing with. A two-year interval seems the right approach.

While the main responsibility for implementation lies with Member States, we fully support the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure United Nations system-wide coherence. The Strategy and its implementation should also be considered through the prism of our regular reporting to the counter-terrorism bodies of the Security Council in order to avoid duplication and so-called reporting fatigue.

Slovenia is now party to 14 of the 16 United Nations conventions and protocols on counter-terrorism. In the fall of last year, we ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amendments to the

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We have also initiated internal procedures on the ratification of the remaining two Protocols on the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation.

In the fall of last year, Slovenia also ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, and this spring the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism. These ratifications were made possible by relevant amendments to the penal code and to the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing.

In regard to the first pillar, we should continue to focus on the promotion of and respect for human rights, the rule of law, good governance, democracy, tolerance, education and economic prosperity. This is important from the perspective of countering the issue of radicalization and recruitment, and for addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

In regard to the second and third pillars, we believe that national efforts to counter terrorism should be complemented by international cooperation, since no country can cope with this scourge on its own. It is a long-term effort that will bring added value if we enhance existing cooperation and offer technical assistance to those who need it, through bilateral or multilateral channels.

I would also like to inform the Assembly that the Slovenian Parliament approved a new national security strategy this spring. The revision of the strategy is part of an ongoing general overhaul of our strategic documents. This overall strategic framework identifies threats and challenges to national security at the global, supranational and national levels, and defines policies and instruments for addressing them. The strategies also call specifically for work to be done in partnership, whether bilaterally or in a regional or multilateral arena. The national security strategy recognizes the threat of terrorism and envisages the Government's adoption of a national counter-terrorism plan.

There is also a need to enhance cooperation between law enforcement and judicial authorities, which is not always easy to achieve. It is very important not only to condemn the perpetrators of terrorist acts, but also to do everything we can to prosecute them, while ensuring respect for human rights. With that commitment, we contribute to essential principles shared by our societies, such as the importance of the rule of law.

Slovenia has concluded a number of bilateral agreements with more than 20 States on cooperation between Governments, police authorities and financial intelligence units in suppressing crime, including terrorism. Slovenia's activities are aimed particularly at cooperation with the countries of the Western Balkans. Following Slovenia's initiative, cooperation is under way on the basis of an agreement on counter-terrorism cooperation between police authorities in the region. Another Slovenian initiative, in the form of a transfer of European Union best practices on counter-terrorism, is being carried out in the Western Balkans in an effort to improve national capabilities through a comprehensive and structured approach.

Concerning the fourth pillar of the plan of action, I would like to express our firm belief that any measures we undertake must comply with our obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law. In this context, we welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) on procedural guarantees, as well as the appointment of an Ombudsperson. We also wish to extend our continued full support for the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

In conclusion, I would like to recall that Slovenia has announced its candidature for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2012-2013, and in that process will promote the further implementation of counter-terrorism measures, with due regard for the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Mrs. Halliyadde (Sri Lanka): At the outset, let me thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2010/818) and for his efforts to strengthen the implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Our thanks also go to the President of the General Assembly and to the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh for their efforts during the informal consultations to facilitate reaching a

consensus draft resolution on the second review conference.

As a country that has only recently emerged from a long and brutal terrorist conflict, Sri Lanka takes considerable interest in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Sri Lanka's experience during those long, dark years makes us very sensitive to and encouraged by all the measures employed by the international community to counter terrorism. Although we succeeded in eliminating the terrorist threat domestically, we remain vigilant about the possibility of terrorism rearing its ugly head again through international machinations.

In this context, we welcome the Strategy's emphasis on further enhancing the capacity of the United Nations and other international organizations to deal with terrorism and to assist Member States in countering terrorism themselves. We also welcome the call on States to cooperate with each other. Terrorism can be defeated effectively only through international cooperation and pragmatic action. We endorse the call on Member States to consider becoming a party to the existing instruments that deal with terrorism. We also take this opportunity to encourage Member States to make every effort to conclude negotiations on the comprehensive convention on terrorism.

While we adopt international instruments and commit to putting them into effect, we must also avoid creating the impression that terrorists can somehow gain their goals through other means. I note that the terrorist group that was defeated in Sri Lanka is now conducting a massive international campaign to grab a victory in a different way by vilifying Sri Lanka. It is also sad that this campaign has gained some acceptance among important entities globally, encouraging the rump of the terrorist group to find new energy and purpose for its continued existence. We feel that it is incumbent on all of us who object to terrorism to ensure that our acts do not contribute to encouraging it, directly or indirectly.

We have also noted that terrorist groups have used the system of political asylum to enable their members to seek safe haven elsewhere. Political asylum should be granted only after every precaution has been taken to ensure that terrorism is not encouraged in the process.

Finally, we strongly encourage further strengthening of United Nations institutional mechanisms aimed at dealing with terrorism, including the provision of additional funding and staff.

Mr. Ali (Malaysia): My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Syria on behalf of the 57 States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We also echo the expression of appreciation extended to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, who was the facilitator for this year's biennial review of the Strategy. His calm demeanour and mediating experience were factors that managed to carry through the draft resolution before us (A/64/L.69) to its eventual conclusion. A lesser man, to say the least, would probably not have fared as well, which is why I would urge the President of the Assembly to appoint a facilitator for the negotiations on the draft resolution as early as possible in advance of the next review, which I understand will be even earlier, in June 2012.

In reading the Secretary-General's report (A/64/818), my delegation could go only so far as to take note of the information therein. We were uneasy as to how a United Nations document — which is supposed to be of the highest possible standard — could contain a number of glaring factual mistakes.

The first mistake appears, surprisingly, in paragraph 3 of the report itself. In describing what we Member States were doing on 4 and 5 September two years ago, the drafters of the report took it upon themselves to declare that the General Assembly held its first review of the implementation of the Strategy. My delegation was one of the many delegations that argued that the exercise in 2008 was a review of the Strategy, while the review of the implementation of the Strategy fell within the ambit of what the Secretariat was entrusted to undertake. As Member States, we reaffirmed the primary responsibility of Member States towards the Strategy in resolution 62/272 of 2008. In fact, paragraph 4 of 62/272 clearly states that the exercise undertaken on 4 and 5 September 2008 was the first biennial review of the Strategy.

In another paragraph, the report is less factually incorrect, but still incorrect in its perception. Paragraph 134 talks about how Member States should receive coordinated advice, in particular from the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). This is an inversion of the way matters should be, since the purpose of institutionalizing the CTITF was to ensure

that it became a part of the Secretariat and therefore another subject of the Member States. I believe, however, that this is merely an oversight on the part of the drafters of the report, rather than an attempt to ensure that Member States become subservient to the Task Force.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my delegation's appreciation of the spirit of compromise and flexibility that prevailed during the negotiations of the draft resolution that we are about to adopt (A/64/L.69). From the very beginning, all delegations brought with them the willingness to accommodate and hear differing viewpoints. I believe that this helped the negotiations to the degree required in order to achieve consensus. We understand that while important positions had to be upheld, delegations were willing to bring to the negotiations a kind of compromise solution that would satisfy all parties. In 2008, when we first started this process, the positions of delegations were worlds apart. Whatever else we may achieve with this review, at least it has brought a better understanding of each other.

Speaking of reviews, when we adopted the Strategy in 2006 through resolution 60/288, it was never meant to be cast in stone, which is why a clause was added in the resolution to ensure that every two years Member States would embark on a process of examining the progress made and consider updating it to respond to changes.

My delegation believes that the time has now come for us to discuss the Strategy itself. We should set a timetable in which we update the Strategy to ensure its relevance in today's world, particularly by taking note of new terrorism methods and how different tools are used by terrorist entities. With the current advances in technology and the innovation being shown by terrorist entities to adapt to a changing world, we too must show that we can adapt and change to be a step ahead of them in their own game. We should not tie ourselves to a dead-letter document merely to avoid difficult discussions. If we are committed to tackling the problem of terrorism, we should be willing to explore all the possible solutions to its causes.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its institutionalization through resolution 64/235 last year. The CTITF provides much-needed coordination and coherence in the implementation of the Strategy by ensuring that there is one entity that can play a lead role in linking all counter-terrorism activities of the United Nations and other organizations. My delegation believes that the added value the CTITF provides to the effort in countering terrorism lies in its coordination capacity. Under the new draft resolution, the duplication of the work of counter-terrorism entities is to be avoided in order to ensure cost-effectiveness.

In the same vein, we would urge the Task Force not to duplicate the excellent work already being carried out by other entities on the ground. For example, the Task Force would not need to spend precious time and resources in undertaking a field visit when one of the other entities could so easily undertake such a field visit within its own mandate and then report back to the Task Force.

Let me end by saying that terrorism and terrorist activities are an evolving matter and one that has shown great resilience and adaptability. Our challenge lies not only in addressing these activities, but also in ensuring that our solution, while keeping within the boundaries of the rule of law, can also yield concrete results through our continued commitment to cooperation and dialogue.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is firmly committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and whatever its origin or motivation, including State terrorism, which is one of the most abhorrent forms of terrorism. We reaffirm our conviction that the fight against terrorism must be conducted within the framework of multilateralism and through close international cooperation on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and in accordance with obligations under international law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant conventions and international and regional protocols.

Venezuela has strictly fulfilled all of its commitments and obligations stemming from its status as a State party to various international legal instruments in the field of counter-terrorism, as well as other instruments, such as resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In our hemisphere, Venezuela is party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the

Organization of American States Convention to Prevent and Punish Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance. At the international level, Venezuela is party to the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft; the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages; the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents.

In the context of international efforts to prevent the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups and in line with resolution 1540 (2004), Venezuela has developed a bill to facilitate the implementation of that judicial instrument in its capacity as a State party to the Chemical Weapons Convention. With regard to the Biological Weapons Convention, institutional consultations are taking place for the purpose of forming a coordinating body to develop policies to strengthen the activities of the national Government in implementing the Convention. The Bolivarian Government is also considering, among other legal instruments, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism with a view to possible membership.

Since 2008, Venezuela has implemented a comprehensive national security plan on the measures to be applied to nuclear physical safety and radiation and waste management security. Venezuela is contemplating acceding to other international instruments, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste and the Convention on Nuclear Safety. I should also like to point out that Venezuela has already enacted a law of accession to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. Similarly, our National Assembly will soon enact a new draft law on weapons and explosives to replace the legislation currently in force.

With regard to the international norms referred to in the 40 recommendations on money-laundering and the nine special recommendations on the financing of terrorism of the Financial Action Task Force, Venezuela is a member of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, which was formed to implement joint measures to address the problem of money laundering. My country has rigorously abided by the provisions on mutual judicial assistance and the extradition of any person who has participated in the planning, preparation, financing or commission of terrorist acts.

Some Member States have assumed for themselves the role of standard-bearer in the fight against terrorism while allowing and defending impunity for dangerous terrorists who have served them abroad by participating in covert operations. Today, as Venezuela expresses its support for draft resolution A/64/L.69, we reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My country is concerned that confessed and convicted terrorists are being protected, such as the Cuban-Venezuelan national Luis Posada Carriles, who is responsible for numerous terrorist attacks, including the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft flying off the coast of Barbados, in which more than 73 innocent persons lost their lives. It is highly worrisome that the extradition to Venezuela of Luis Posada Carriles has been denied repeatedly and that, barring that, calls to retry him for his terrorists acts have also been rebuffed. In that regard, I recall Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), which, among other things, urge States not to facilitate safe haven for terrorists or resort to political pretexts for refusing requests for the extradition of terrorists.

Lastly, my country takes this opportunity to call once again for the immediate release of the five innocent Cuban heroes who fought terrorism, as well as for the extradition to Venezuela or the immediate trial of the dangerous international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles.

Mr. Bühler (Austria): At the outset, on behalf of Ambassador Ebner, I would like to thank Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen and his team for their skilful efforts in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution (A/64/L.69) on the second review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Austria fully supports the statement delivered this morning by the representative of Belgium on behalf of

the European Union. I will therefore limit my intervention to highlighting the following three points.

First, I would like to express Austria's strong commitment to promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy constitutes the first universally agreed strategic framework to combat terrorism. Its adoption by consensus in 2006 was a landmark event. However, its success depends entirely on its implementation through concrete measures by the authorities of Member States. We therefore must increase our efforts to make the Strategy known worldwide and ensure that it is implemented globally in a holistic and integrated manner.

Austria has taken several initiatives in order to advance knowledge about and global implementation of the Strategy. In May 2007, Austria, together with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized the Vienna terrorism workshop, which was the first meeting after the adoption of the Strategy that brought together Member States, the Task Force, regional and subregional organizations and civil society to discuss the Strategy's implementation. In October 2009, together with Switzerland, Norway, Turkey and other like-minded countries, Austria co-organized and hosted in Vienna the first global workshop of national counter-terrorism focal points which, again for the first time, brought together national counter-terrorism coordinators from more than 100 Member States and representatives of 40 regional organizations. The results and findings of that meeting were presented at a side event today. Austria will also support the series of planned regional focal point workshops to be held as follow-up to the Vienna workshop.

Secondly, my delegation would like to underline the pivotal role of the United Nations at the heart of our global counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorism is a global threat that can be effectively combated globally only in a multilateral framework. Austria strongly supports the important work of the CTITF under the leadership of its Chairman, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, and recalls its core mandate to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system.

We welcome the progress towards finalizing the institutionalization of the Task Force in accordance with resolution 64/235, which was introduced by Austria along with a group of like-minded countries and adopted by consensus in December last year. We hope that the secretariat of the Task Force will soon become fully operational to develop its full potential. We call on the Task Force, through its Chairman, to interact more regularly with Member States by organizing periodic briefings about the work of the CTITF and its working groups and by developing a comprehensive website and email newsletters in order to ensure that its work is made more transparent and accessible.

Thirdly, it is Austria's firm belief that respect for the rule of law is a fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism. We all must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with our obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

The strengthening of the rule of law and criminal justice systems is particularly highlighted in the fourth pillar of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We strongly support the work of UNODC in this area, which provides technical assistance to Member States to develop their capacity to implement the Strategy. Austria is one of the largest voluntary contributors to the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and its global project on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism.

On our own part, we remain firmly committed to strengthening the legal framework to combat terrorism. Austria has ratified and implemented all 16 universal counter-terrorism instruments as well as all relevant Security Council resolutions.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Austria is also committed to strengthening the rule of law in the work of the Council's counter-terrorism committees. In particular, as Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban, Austria has worked tirelessly over the past years to enhance due process and fair and clear procedures. On 30 July, the 1267 Committee concluded its two-year review of its consolidated list of individuals and entities subject to sanctions measures pursuant to resolution 1822 (2008). Of the 488 entries examined, almost 10 per cent — a that is, 45 entries — were removed from the

list as a direct result of the review. Moreover, the recent appointment of Ms. Kimberly Prost as first Ombudsperson to receive de-listing requests in accordance with Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) constitutes a further quantum leap forward.

As my delegation has stated on previous occasions, there is more to our task at hand if we are to succeed in implementing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy globally and to achieve our common goal to overcome the global threat of terrorism. We must leave all our disputes and distrust behind and unite our strengths — all of us, not only States and international, regional or subregional organizations, but also civil society, victims' organizations and the private sector — in short, all of humankind. That is our real challenge. Let me reassure the Assembly of Austria's support in this joint endeavour.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Cuba wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/818). We also wish to laud the efforts of the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, as facilitator of the informal consultations undertaken to negotiate the draft resolution on the second review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/64/L.69).

The delegation of Cuba wishes to reaffirm the importance of the Strategy as a central instrument for guiding our global fight against the scourge of terrorism, which has claimed so many innocent lives throughout history. Aware of the great responsibility we all have in the fight against terrorism and committed to multilateral efforts to bring an end to the scourge, the delegation of Cuba participated in the consultation process for the preparation of the draft resolution on the review of the Strategy (A/64/L.69).

Once again, Cuba expresses its firm commitment in the fight against terrorism and in defence of multilateralism. Cuba reiterates its deepest rejection and condemnation of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, by whomever and against whomever they are committed and for whatever motivation, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved. State terrorism is one of the most abhorrent forms of terrorism.

Measures to eliminate international terrorism must be based on strict respect for the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law and international humanitarian law. Arbitrary and unilateral measures, acts of aggression, covert actions, unilateral sanctions or the drawing up of lists or certifications of countries for clearly political purposes can in no way be justified. Cuban has never permitted and will never permit the use of its national territory for the conduct, planning or financing of acts of terrorism against any other State.

Our country was one of the first three States to ratify the 12 first international instruments against international terrorism and is a party to the 13 existing international instruments, having acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism last year. The Republic of Cuba has enacted a general law against acts of terrorism and adopted non-legislative domestic measures to fight the scourge. Likewise, it cooperates and strictly complies with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), providing comprehensive reports on this issue to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

We emphatically reject the inclusion of our country on the spurious list of those that supposedly sponsor international terrorism, drafted by the Government of the United States of America every year. Cuba firmly rejects its inclusion on that list, which is unilateral, politically motivated and comes from a country that lacks any moral authority whatsoever to judge others with respect to terrorism.

In the United States, mainly in Miami, funds to carry out terrorist acts are provided and collected with complete impunity. Bank accounts are operated to finance terrorism, safe haven is provided and the use of national territory is permitted for those who finance, plan and commit acts of terrorism against Cuba. An long-standing example of this is the case of notorious terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, responsible for the 1976 downing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in flight with 73 persons on board. He is also responsible for attacks on tourist facilities in Havana in 1987 in which an Italian tourist was killed. In brief, he is responsible for many plans to physically eliminate the Commander-in-Chief, Fidel Castro. This individual remains at liberty although the Government of the United States has all the evidence needed, including that provided by Cuba.

In contrast to the aforementioned, five Cuban youths, whose only crime was to fight terrorism in order to save the lives of Cuban and North American citizens, were sentenced to long terms in the United States, and in the days to come they will have been unjustly incarcerated for 12 years in prisons in that country.

Cuba believes that impunity and double standards are unacceptable in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism must be rejected in all circumstances. There should be closer cooperation between States to fight that scourge on the basis of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Selectivity and the petty urge for territorial expansion to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the powerful for strategic resources must come to an end. Accordingly, Cuba completely rejects the exploitation of the fight against terrorism as a pretext to justify interference in the internal affairs of other States, aggression and the undermining of the national sovereignty of States.

Finally, we reiterate the firm and unshakeable will of the Government and people of Cuba to cooperate in multilateral efforts to put an end to all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in whatever shape or form.

Mr. Šćepanović (Montenegro): Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union.

At the outset, let me thank the President for convening this important meeting. Terrorism represents a significant challenge in today's world, and meetings such as this are always a good opportunity to discuss issues of importance so that we can explore and agree on solutions to deal better with the common threat we are facing. We would also like to thank Ambassador Momen of Bangladesh and Mr. Shah of Pakistan for facilitating the consultations that have resulted in a consensus draft text (A/64/L.69).

Taking into account the fact that terrorism and the financing of terrorism represent a considerable threat to humankind at the global level, and in order to adequately address and face potential challenges from all forms of terrorism, Montenegro continues to develop and implement a comprehensive national policy in that regard.

Recognizing the importance of international cooperation in successfully tackling terrorism, Montenegro is a State party to all relevant multilateral and bilateral conventions and arrangements dealing with this subject. We believe that regional cooperation and common projects – with support from United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and from other international organizations – are of great importance in combating terrorism. At the national level, all forms of terrorist activity are treated as criminal acts under the revised criminal code of Montenegro, in accordance with ratified United Nations conventions.

Aside from implementing measures mandated by our national legislature and by international arrangements, our relevant institutions also operate within the strategic framework to prevent terrorism further. In this context, our strategy for judicial reform for the period 2007-2012 defines combating organized crime, corruption, terrorism and war crimes as one of its primary goals, and, among other measures, prescribes more effective legal prosecution and the strengthening of the capacities of judicial institutions as means to achieve this goal.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate Montenegro's unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its plan of action. We welcome the spirit of consensus and unity that prevailed throughout the second review of the strategy. We believe that only if we are united and join our efforts can we put ourselves in the best possible position to respond appropriately to today's challenges and discourage future terrorist activities. In this regard, Montenegro considers the conclusion of negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism to be of the utmost importance in stepping up the fight against terrorism.

By strengthening its legislative and institutional framework through inter-sectoral as well as international cooperation, and by implementing international mechanisms, Montenegro will continue to contribute to global efforts to confront organized crime and terrorism in such a way that it constitutes a factor for stability in the region and a country that holds no place for terrorists and terrorist activities.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Montenegro's firm support and commitment to the actions and efforts

of the United Nations and the international community in the field of terrorism.

Mr. Bame (Ethiopia): I would like to express my delegation's gratitude to Ambassador Momen of Bangladesh for the successful completion of his work and his efforts in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution before us (A/64/L.69). I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his comprehensive report (A/64/818).

My delegation believes that the adoption of the Strategy in 2006 was a paradigm shift in counter-terrorism action, for it contains a new approach that combines it with concerns for the protection of human rights. Humankind has continued to witness significant increases in the number of terrorist attacks in recent years. We in Africa have been among the hardest hit; last year alone, Africa recorded 6,177 casualties in 266 acts of terrorism, making it second only to Asia.

Ethiopia has expressed its commitment to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by taking a broad range of measures, including the adoption of a new proclamation. As we are at the epicentre of the global terrorist network, my Government has been in the front line of the struggle against terrorism. The anarchy in Somalia, the belligerent nature of the regime in Eritrea, the changing political dynamics in the region and the symbiosis between domestic and regional negative forces have contributed to the expansion of the terror network. Ethiopia has been a target of international and domestic terrorists since the early 1990s, and the people of Ethiopia have paid dearly in the process. Hundreds have been killed and thousands maimed, and property worth millions of dollars has been destroyed.

Ethiopia believes that in order to adequately fight terrorism, it is essential to implement the four pillars of the Strategy. We emphasize the importance of promoting tolerance, including between people of different religions, to combat the spread of terrorism. In organizing its national strategy, the Ethiopian Parliament has put in place appropriate legislative mechanisms that incorporate procedures for preventing, controlling and foiling terrorism, as outlined in the United Nations Global Strategy.

The National Intelligence and Security Service Agency, which has been entrusted with the task of overseeing the management of counter-terrorism activities, is mandated to conduct intelligence, border security, and criminal investigation in order to prevent and control terrorist acts. The appropriate authorities are also mandated to gather and compile sufficient information and evidence in order to take action against suspected individuals and organizations for acts of terrorism. The Government has set up enhanced investigation and prosecution systems, granting domestic judicial organs jurisdiction over offences committed within and beyond our territories. In order to respond to terrorist incidents, the federal and regional police forces have been required to develop counter-terrorism capabilities.

The National Bank of Ethiopia has developed financial investigation mechanisms to control foreign funding; the authorities are empowered to confiscate the proceeds of crimes such as money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In its endeavour to curtail terrorist financing and counterfeiting, the Government has adopted directives for anti-money-laundering legislation, including the establishment of a financial intelligence unit. In accordance with the various conventions, the new law criminalizes and punishes the financing of terrorism and possessing or using property knowing or intending it to be used to commit or facilitate a terrorist act. The revised penal code criminalizes money-laundering and a number of other financial crimes. Those offences included in the international instruments to which Ethiopia is a party have been made part of the new counter-terrorism law.

Ethiopia has been working in cooperation with Governments and organizations that uphold anti-terrorism objectives, particularly in the Horn of Africa, on the African continent and in other parts of the world. This indispensable notion of cooperation and collaboration has been explicitly set forth in the purpose clause of the new proclamation.

My delegation believes that cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels are necessary to defeat both international and domestic terrorism. We would like to emphasize that no distinction should be drawn between these two brands of terrorism. Some partners in the cooperation framework are selective as a result of a failure to understand the complexity and fluidity of terrorism. We cannot have an effective counter-terrorism strategy when a selective approach is used.

In the past five years, local terrorist organizations that maintain links to Al-Ittihad Al-Islamiya and

Al-Shabaab have carried out several attacks on innocent civilians and property, a number of which have been directed at hotels, public transportation systems and public gatherings. It is morally unacceptable to ignore the plight of victims of so-called domestic terrorists.

Ethiopia has been collaborating with neighbouring countries and other partners in the fight against terrorism, yet there are challenges to the regional cooperation framework owing to capacity gaps and vulnerabilities. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has an important role to play in supporting Strategy implementation in our subregion. One aspect of that role is assisting States to implement their obligations and providing technical support to States and to regional and subregional bodies. In order to ensure compliance with international human rights obligations when taking counter-terrorism measures, the States of the region need assistance in capacity-building, the rule of law and related activities.

Al-Shabaab remains the major threat to peace and stability not only in Somalia, but also in other countries of the region. Due to Al-Shabaab's continued attacks on civilians and the Transitional Federal Government, Somalia has become more of a threat to regional and international security. Al-Shabaab has several hundred foreign fighters in its ranks and more continue to arrive from different parts of the world. While the Transitional Federal Government has been unable to compensate its troops, Al-Shabaab has regularly paid its militia with the help of its international partners.

The Monitoring Group on Somalia reported recently that Eritrea is the main financier of terrorism in the region. It is a public secret that Eritrea supplies arms, training and finance to Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups. Eritrean military advisers have been sent to Mogadishu to train combatants to help extremist groups in Somalia. It is important to note that domestic terrorist groups in Ethiopia have obtained training and arms largely from Eritrea. Eritrea has also been a conduit for logistical and financial support from a number of actors outside the region.

The Government of Ethiopia has committed itself to enforcing agreements that have been entered into under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union. Ethiopia has adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Ethiopia has implemented the main elements of the Strategy, putting mechanisms into action within its new legislation. Ethiopia has been actively participating in African Union counter-terrorism efforts. My delegation supports international and regional cooperation and reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Strategy.

The Acting President: In accordance with resolution 44/6 of 17 October 1989, I now call on the observer of the Council of Europe.

Ms. Requena (Council of Europe): It is an honour for me to address the General Assembly on this important issue and to have the opportunity to present an overview of the Council of Europe's approach to the fight against terrorism, and more specifically of the Council's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The importance of a single, coherent and universally accepted framework for international action against terrorism cannot be overestimated. Let me emphasize its enormous significance and confirm the commitment of the Council of Europe — the oldest pan-European regional organization — to conducting its action against terrorism along the lines set out in the Strategy.

Combating terrorism efficiently requires bringing forces together. That is why in 2007 the relevant Council of Europe entities working on counter-terrorism issues adopted a road map on the contribution of our organization to the implementation of the United Nations Strategy with a view to streamlining and coordinating our efforts on the four pillars of the Strategy.

First of all, regarding the measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the Council of Europe is actively involved in education, youth and the media. It contributes to ensuring the protection of minorities and to fighting intolerance, racism and social exclusion in an attempt to weaken the sources of discontent that may fuel terrorism. For example, the Council of Europe drew up a white paper on intercultural dialogue that is currently being actively implemented after a large-scale consultation process between State and non-State actors. Moreover, through the Intercultural Cities project, the Council of Europe very recently tested a model of immigrant/

minority integration at the local level based on the principle of intercultural community-building.

Secondly, regarding measures to prevent and combat terrorism, one of the priorities of the Council of Europe is to strengthen legal action against terrorism. As a standard-setting organization, the Council of Europe pays close attention to the development of counter-terrorism standards. One of the most prominent steps in this direction is the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted in 2005, which constitutes the first international legally binding instrument on this subject. The Council of Europe has also prepared a set of recommendations on special investigation techniques, travel identity documents in the context of the fight against terrorism, the protection of witnesses and collaborators of justice, and cooperation with INTERPOL.

In the fight against terrorism, the Council of Europe also promotes the use of existing standards contained in other Council of Europe conventions and instruments that foster the harmonization of national substantive and procedural law and international cooperation. For example, regarding assistance for victims of terrorism, the spectrum of Council of Europe standards is contained in some relevant Council of Europe conventions and in more than 12 resolutions and recommendations. I should also mention that the general mutual legal assistance instruments of the Council of Europe can be used to fight terrorism as a specific type of organized crime and that our Convention on Cybercrime already has a global reach.

The main objective of the core body of our counter-terrorism action, the Committee of Experts on Terrorism of the Council of Europe, is to monitor the existing instruments, to identify gaps in international law and actions against terrorism, and to propose solutions to those gaps.

In relation to the third pillar on measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, the Council of Europe has set up a number of specific legal cooperation programmes that are open to the Council of Europe's 47 member States.

Finally, the measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism are perhaps the most vital — from the Council of Europe's point of view — because they touch upon the very reason for the existence of our organization. All Council of Europe activities concerning the fight against terrorism are based on the statutory principles of our organization: human rights, the rule of law and democracy. These are prevalent throughout one of the main conventions of the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights, as interpreted by the European Court of Human Rights, which has already compiled important case law on the fight against terrorism. In fact, the Council of Europe strongly believes that the promotion and protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law must be at the core of any action to fight terrorism. To effectively fight terrorism while ensuring respect for human rights is not only possible, but indispensable.

To sum up, terrorism is a complex phenomenon, and to fight it effectively we need a comprehensive approach and multidisciplinary expertise. We believe that regional organizations can make meaningful contributions to supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In this respect, I would very much like to thank the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and in particular its Chair, Mr. Laborde, for taking the regional organization perspective on board in the follow-up to the Global Strategy.

With its rich background of standards, expertise, knowledge of the regional threat perception and field presence, the Council of Europe has already and will continue to serve as a strategic and useful partner for United Nations bodies, enhancing the effectiveness of the measures and impact of the Strategy.

The Acting President: In accordance with resolution 48/5 of 13 October 1993, I now call on the observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Perl (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy calls on regional organizations to support the Strategy's implementation. Centralized visionary leadership and regional coordination of implementation efforts are an effective combination to combat terrorism. At the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we are actively integrating the United Nations strategy into our counter-terrorism programmes.

For those not familiar with my organization, let me briefly note that, with 56 States members from

Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE is the largest regional security organization in the world. The organization is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The OSCE's comprehensive concept of security includes a political-military dimension, an economic-environmental dimension and a human dimension, which are all central in the fight against terrorism.

Regional organizations are a powerful force multiplier in implementing the United Nations Strategy through tailored assistance and capacity-building. Activities at this intermediate geographic level provide cost-effective mechanisms for disseminating information, for sharing best practices and lessons learned, and for pioneering region-specific initiatives that complement global counter-terrorism objectives.

Since the adoption of the United Nations Strategy, the OSCE has looked upon this important document as both providing the strategic framework and offering practical guidance for its counter-terrorism efforts. We also carry out our counter-terrorism programme in close cooperation with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). We at the OSCE take a comprehensive approach to security, and hence our counter-terrorism activities embrace all four pillars of the United Nations Strategy. We build consensus and political support among participating States with the objective of preventing and combating terrorism in line with international legal instruments. We generate support for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism.

We actively support the implementation of security standards, recommendations and good practices developed by specialized global organizations and agencies, and promote respect for human rights. We have an independent body dedicated to that. To cite some specific examples, we support and facilitate capacity-building programmes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on promoting the international legal framework against terrorism. We support the International Civil Aviation Organization on enhancing travel document security and the World Customs Organization on strengthening container supply chain security. In close coordination with international partners, we also work on enhancing cybersecurity and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, protecting critical energy infrastructures, and promoting public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

Regional organizations such as the OSCE enjoy comparative advantages in relation to the international response to terrorism and implementing the United Nations Strategy. Advantages include smaller membership and in-depth knowledge of the situation on the ground. Clearly, field mission presence, such as the 18 OSCE offices in South-East Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia represent a significant organizational advantage. Moreover, the OSCE through its activities helps free up the counter-terrorism resources of other international organizations, enabling them to target resources in areas that do not overlap with, but instead extend beyond the OSCE sphere of responsibility.

Unfortunately, time may be working against us with respect to the issue of terrorism. To some extent, terrorism has long been a self-sustaining process. Like an epidemic, it starts slowly, but once it has taken hold — whether as a world view, a tactical methodology or simply a sociological aberration — eradicating it is difficult and may take decades or even generations. Longer-term measures require cooperation and diplomacy, which in turn require mutual trust. Regional organizations provide a forum for the building of such multilateral trust, which takes a long time to develop and which grows as durable relationships emerge among diplomats and among nations.

One must carefully weigh the trade-offs from costly or draconian counter-terrorism reactions that may abridge human rights or individual liberties against the putative protections they seek to achieve. No nation can remain mobilized on full alert indefinitely. In the modern world of asymmetric weapons, where a single individual can bring about widespread destruction, no policy can protect everything everywhere all the time. Human rights are difficult to regain once they have been lost or compromised by extreme protective measures, however well-intentioned.

We must take the necessary precautions to stop terrorist attacks on our vital infrastructure and global economic underpinnings, but it is also necessary to ask ourselves where we should draw the line. How much protection is enough? That question is not easily answered, but one thing is clear — we must work together to achieve the level of protection against terrorism needed to promote peace and understanding both within and among nations. Implementing the United Nations Strategy is an important step in that direction.

To conclude, effective counter-terrorism work requires a global and integrated response. In today's increasingly interconnected world, no organization can operate effectively in isolation or in a vacuum. In order to succeed, we must cooperate and coordinate closely with each other. Further reinforcing the mechanisms within the United Nations framework to coordinate the activities of regional organizations, as well as strengthening the CTITF and its working groups, would greatly enhance the effectiveness of our joint efforts. The more closely we work together, the better our chances to spot terrorist trends and devise countermeasures. Our resources are limited, and we need to maximize what we get out of them.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/64/L.69. Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote or position, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for entrusting me with the assignment of facilitator of the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I highly value the Assembly's trust in and continued support for me and for the Bangladesh Mission.

Counter-terrorism is one of the most important and difficult items on the agenda of the United Nations. Although most Member States are willing to participate in the multilateral counter-terrorism engagements, they also have to support their national positions on both the law enforcement and security aspects of the counter-terrorism debate.

I realized the intricacies of the issue in hand before undertaking this work, and I was guided by the need to promote and strengthen consensus, which had remained elusive before the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006. It was my considered view that, without building consensus and a constructive approach, we would not be able to straddle the gap between the national, regional and international views. In that regard, from day one I enjoyed the strong support and the spirit of consensus of the delegation of the European Union, led by Belgium, and the delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, led by Syria. In addition, other delegations also played a constructive and positive role during the whole process. I am indebted to them for their spirit of cooperation, flexibility and sincerity. I thank them all most sincerely.

I also received excellent support from the staff. I thank Ms. Angela Nworgu, Adviser of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, for her continued efforts to liaise between my office and the Office of the President. I especially commend the constructive role that Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), played during the process.

Terrorism, in both its magnitude and its diversity, is one of the grave challenges facing the international community. It has affected all facets of our societies, including international security, the environment for domestic law enforcement, domestic legal structures, intercultural harmony, development aspects of our societies, international travel and the like.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is the international community's holistic response to that threat. It envisages measures to eliminate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to prevent and combat terrorism, as well as measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system and that of Member States' responses, and at protecting human rights and the rule of law, even in the case of counter-terrorism. The holistic approach to developing the Strategy not only provided a comprehensive strategic framework to defeat terrorism, but also helped build the desperately needed, but often too elusive consensus on this sensitive issue.

The holistic and consensus nature of the Strategy gives it a unique status as a document, but only through its effective and integrated implementation in all its aspects can we defeat terrorism. This second review of the Strategy has provided us with an excellent opportunity to carefully look into all aspects of its implementation, identify shortcomings and propose better ways and means to plug the gaps and strengthen its implementation.

From the very beginning, we faced the challenge of limited time at our disposal. The earnest pursuit of the agreed timelines to complete the task was possible only thanks to the flexibility and spirit of cooperation that Member States showed during the negotiations.

The final text of the draft resolution, I am pleased to say, is based on consensus and a balanced text. It reflects the spirit of the original 2006 resolution on the

Strategy (resolution 60/288) and the 2008 resolution on the first review (resolution 62/272). It covers key issues that enjoy broad cross-regional support. Some of the issues put forward by regional groups or a specific Member State or their specific wording may not have been fully reflected in the text, but I can affirm that we left no stone unturned to achieve broad consensus and compromise. Thus, the text reflects a measured expression of pertinent ideas that enjoys broad support. It is a win-win situation for all.

I attempted a fair deal for all stakeholders. The final text of the draft resolution, submitted as document A/64/L.69, unequivocally condemns terrorism and reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects.

It recognizes that international cooperation and all measures undertaken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must fully comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, in particular human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law.

It welcomes the progress made towards finalizing the institutionalization of the CTITF, in accordance with resolution 64/235 of 24 December 2009. It underscores the need to enhance dialogue among the counter-terrorism officials of Member States to promote international, regional and subregional cooperation and the wider dissemination of knowledge of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in order to counter terrorism.

It also calls for the enhanced engagement of Member States in the work of the CTITF by increasing the interactive opportunities between the Task Force and Member States. The importance of transparency has also been highlighted; it also encourages the CTITF to develop a comprehensive website in order to ensure that its work is made more accessible to a wider audience.

Every now and then, we have discussed the inadequacy of a review during the holiday season of August and the opening session preparatory season of September. That anomaly has been removed by the decision that the next review will be completed by June 2012.

The CTITF's mandate to develop limited cross-regional counter-terrorism programmes and to deliver one-window capacity-building assistance at the request of Member States has also been endorsed. The focus has remained primarily on implementation. The outcome of this consensus draft resolution will be a stronger CTITF that is enabled to promote international counter-terrorism efforts in a more effective, coordinated and coherent manner.

With those brief comments, I would request all regional groups and Member States to support the consensus text under consideration. The consensus adoption of this text will cement the consensus that we have protected and built since the adoption of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy resolution in 2006.

On other matters, I would like to formerly thank Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan — who has vast experience on the subject matter, including excellent negotiating skills — for his tireless efforts to reach consensus on difficult issues concerning the final text of the draft resolution. My appreciation also goes to the General Assembly Affairs Branch for its continued secretarial support. Finally, I am thankful to colleagues from my own Mission who assisted me during the whole process. More important, I am thankful to my friends and colleagues, especially Permanent Representatives and experts from Member States, who trusted me and provided me with their support, wisdom and constant encouragement to complete this process.

The Acting President: I thank Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh and facilitator of the draft resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, for his excellent work on that task.

We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/64/L.69. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/64/L.69 was adopted (resolution 64/297).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.118

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

118th plenary meeting
Thursday, 9 September 2010, 11.30 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Agenda item 110 (*continued*)

Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs

(c) Election of a member of the International Court of Justice

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/64/899)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/64/900)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/64/901)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of a member of the International Court of Justice for the unexpired term of office of Judge Thomas Buergenthal, whose resignation took effect on 6 September 2010.

In connection with this election, I should like to bring the following matters to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

I would like to confirm that, at this time, the Security Council, independently of the General Assembly, is also proceeding to elect one member of the Court. This procedure is in accordance with article 8 of the Statute of the Court, which provides that "the General Assembly and the Security Council shall proceed independently of one another to elect the members of the Court". Accordingly, the result of the voting in the General Assembly will not be communicated to the Security Council until one candidate has obtained the required majority in the Assembly.

I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the documents relating to the election. The Assembly has before it document A/64/899, which contains a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the present composition of the Court and the procedure to be followed in the General Assembly and in the Security Council with regard to the election; document A/64/900, which contains the nomination of a candidate by national groups within the required time for submission, that is, by 12 August 2010; and document A/64/901, which contains the curriculum vitae of the candidate nominated by national groups. I should like to inform the Assembly that, after the expiration of the deadline for submissions of nominations, the Secretariat received communications from the national group of Colombia, also nominating a candidate.

In accordance with article 10, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the Court, the candidate who obtains an absolute majority of votes both in the General Assembly and in the Security Council shall be considered as elected. The consistent practice of the United Nations has been to interpret the words "absolute majority" as meaning a majority of all electors, whether or not they vote or are allowed to vote. The electors in the General Assembly are all 192 Member States. Accordingly, for the present election, 97 votes constitute an absolute majority in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly will now proceed to a secret ballot. If, in the first ballot, the candidate does not obtain an absolute majority, it will be necessary to

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10-51150 (E)

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proceed to other ballots until the candidate has obtained the required majority. Pursuant to the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 915th meeting, held on 16 November 1960, those ballots shall be unrestricted.

May I take it that the Assembly agrees to the procedures I have just outlined?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to remind representatives that, pursuant to rule 88 of the Assembly's rules of procedure,

> "After the President has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting."

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers will now be distributed.

Representatives are requested to use only the ballot papers that are now being distributed and to place a cross to the left of the name of the candidate for whom they wish to vote. Votes may be cast only for the candidate whose name appears on the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Baptista (Angola), Ms. Köhler (Austria), Mr. Ahmed (Bangladesh), Mr. Mathiasen (Denmark), Mr. Jatmiko (Indonesia) and Mr. Peralta (Paraguay) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.05 p.m. and resumed at 12.30 p.m.

The President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	167
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	167
Abstentions:	8
Number of members present and voting:	159
Required absolute majority:	97
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Joan Donoghue (United States of America)	159

Ms. Joan Donoghue has obtained an absolute majority in the General Assembly. I have communicated the result of the voting to the President of the Security Council.

I have also received a letter from the President of the Security Council, which reads:

> "I have the honour to inform you that at the 6381st meeting of the Security Council, held on 9 September 2010 for the purpose of electing one member of the International Court of Justice to fill a vacancy on the Court for a term of office expiring on 5 February 2015, Ms. Joan E. Donoghue obtained an absolute majority of votes."

As a result of the independent voting in the Security Council and in the General Assembly, Ms. Joan Donoghue has obtained an absolute majority in both organs. She is therefore duly elected a member of the International Court of Justice to serve for a term of office commencing today, 9 September 2010, and ending 5 February 2015. I take this opportunity to extend to her the congratulations of the Assembly on her election and to thank the tellers for their assistance.

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked to speak on a point of order.

Mr. Salsabili (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation wishes to congratulate Her Excellency Joan E. Donoghue on her election as a judge of the International Court of Justice.

Nonetheless, my delegation would like to underline that articles 2 and 9 of the Court's Statute provide the only criteria for electing qualified candidates to the post, and any practice or precedent to the contrary that may imply or bring in other elements other than geographical distribution and that could grant a special privilege or privileged treatment to certain States is not acceptable.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (c) of agenda item 110?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.119

General Assembly

Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

119th plenary meeting

Thursday, 9 September 2010, 12.35 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

Agenda item 18

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Draft resolution (A/64/L.57)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I call on the representative of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I have the honour to refer to item 18 on the agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", and to draft resolution A/64/L.57, entitled "Observance of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan".

I have the privilege to inform the delegations of the States Members of the United Nations that, as a result of intensive consultations with the parties concerned, the co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group have announced that,

> "between late September and mid-October the co-Chairs will return to the region to conduct the field assessment mission to observe the humanitarian situation in the territories. A team of high-level advisers and experts, including representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and others, are expected to accompany the co-Chairs on their mission, which will be the first international mission in these territories since the OSCE fact-finding mission in early 2005".

Proceeding from this understanding and in the spirit of good will, the delegation of Azerbaijan kindly requests the General Assembly to postpone its consideration of the agenda item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" and to defer it to the sixty-fifth session. I take this opportunity to thank all delegations for their time and efforts during the whole period of intensive consultations. My delegation looks forward to continuing to inform all Member States with regard to the results of the aforementioned mission to the concerned territories.

The President (spoke in Arabic): The Assembly has just heard the statement by the representative of Azerbaijan withdrawing draft resolution A/64/L.57 and requesting that consideration of agenda item 18 be deferred to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly decides, as proposed by the representative of Azerbaijan, to defer consideration of the item and to include an item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" in the draft agenda of the sixty-fifth session?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 18?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

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United Nations A/64/PV.120

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

120th plenary meeting
Thursday, 9 September 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 77

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law

Note by the Secretary-General (A/64/881)

Draft resolution (A/64/L.65/Rev.1)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, on a point of order.

Mr. Jeremić (Serbia): I have a point of order. We see representatives of Pristina in the Hall. They do not represent an independent, sovereign United Nations Member State, so could you please explain to us, Mr. President, their presence in the Hall?

The President: I would like to inform Member States that the representatives from Pristina are present today in the General Assembly Hall as guests of the delegations of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. With that I think I have answered the question of the representative of Serbia.

As noted in document A/64/881, the individual opinions, separate opinions and declarations appended to the advisory opinion will be issued as an addendum to the present note.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, to introduce draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1.

Mr. Jeremić (Serbia): Allow me to introduce draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1, proposed by the Republic of Serbia, which is co-sponsored by the 27 countries of the European Union.

My presence here today as Foreign Minister of the Republic of Serbia signifies the paramount importance that my country assigns to the issue that we have met to discuss. As befits the General Assembly and in accordance with established practice, we are here to follow up after the advice of the International Court of Justice, placing its opinion in an appropriate international context that contributes to all-around stability.

To that end, the Republic of Serbia has submitted a draft resolution, co-sponsored by the 27 member States of the European Union. Some of them continue to respect the territorial integrity of Serbia, while others have recognized Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence. Nonetheless, common ground has been reached by ensuring that the draft resolution is fundamentally a status-neutral document.

The Republic of Serbia does not, and shall not, recognize the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. The draft resolution receives with respect and acknowledges the content of the Court's findings in the present matter. In addition, the draft resolution welcomes the readiness of the European Union to facilitate the process of dialogue between the parties,

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which in itself would help to secure regional gains, reinforce shared strategic priorities and improve the lives of the people on the ground. We hope that the draft resolution, if adopted, will help create an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of a comprehensive compact of peace between Serbs and Albanians, achieved through good-faith dialogue. Only such an approach can produce a legitimate and sustainable result consistent with the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

The Republic of Serbia believes that the draft resolution before the General Assembly deserves the full support of this body. We therefore propose that it be adopted by consensus.

The Assembly should have no doubt that, come what may, Serbia's resolve shall not waver. We will not tire, because we must not fail. Although our challenges remain formidable, so do our strengths as we look to the future with conviction in the justice of our cause.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): With regard to the draft resolution entitled "Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law" (A/64/L.65/Rev.1), Azerbaijan commends the efforts aimed at finding mutually acceptable ways to continue a dialogue between the parties for the purpose of peace, security and stability in the region. At the same time, I would like to reiterate Azerbaijan's principled position, according to which unilateral actions cannot be an acceptable way of resolving armed conflicts and territorial issues.

It is essential to emphasize that States are at the heart of the international legal system and the prime subject of international law, while the principle of the protection of the territorial integrity of States is bound to assume major importance. International law is unambiguous in not providing for the right of secession from independent States and in not creating grounds and conditions for legitimizing non-consensual secession in any sense. Such unilateral actions do not involve the exercise of any right conferred in international law, and hence have no place within the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, which apply within precisely identified limits.

In paragraph 81 of its advisory opinion of 22 July 2010 (*see A/64/881*), on the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo, the International Court of Justice reaffirmed that the legality attached to the unilateral secession stems from the fact that,

> "they were, or would have been, connected with the unlawful use of force or other egregious violations of norms of general international law, in particular those of a peremptory character (*jus cogens*)."

Our firm position is that the only way to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of conflicts and disputes is an approach based on full and unequivocal respect for the letter and spirit of international law. The international community should therefore redouble its efforts in rejecting any attempts at imposing solutions based on the result of unilateral actions, the use of force, the seizure of territory and ethnic cleansing.

As a country suffering aggression from a neighbouring State, foreign military occupation and the ethnic cleansing of its territories, Azerbaijan believes that the fulfilment in good faith of the obligations assumed by States under the Charter of the United Nations and international law is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Valero Briceno (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela believes that the unilateral declaration of independence issued by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of the autonomous Government of Kosovo violates Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). That declaration does not take into account the mandate set out in the resolution to comply with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity vis-à-vis the Serbian State. The unilateral declaration of independence also contradicts previous resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998) and 1239 (1999), which also establish the same mandate.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela maintains that the right to secession, which is enshrined in the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination, applies only and exclusively to colonized territories, within the terms of resolution 2625 (XXV).

In that context, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports any initiative put forth by the

General Assembly with regard to preserving and maintaining the principles of international law, whose supremacy is unquestioned. We should therefore emphasize the need to encourage the parties to find a mutually acceptable resolution of outstanding issues on the basis of dialogue, in the interests of peace and security in the region.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's foreign policy includes the principle that conflicts and disputes should be resolved peaceably between parties, in line with Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, on the pacific settlement of disputes.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1, which has been introduced today in this world body by His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

Mr. Limeres (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation supports draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1, as we believe it necessary to promote a peaceful dialogue between the parties that makes it possible to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement.

In that regard, I should like to recall that international peace and security constitute one of the pillars of the United Nations system. The Security Council is the main organ of the United Nations with purview in that regard. The basis for the collective security system established by the Organization is predicated on United Nations Members being obliged to adhere to the relevant resolutions of the Organization.

A political solution to this issue should be based on respect for the decisions adopted by the United Nations. With regard to Kosovo, we should bear in mind Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which clearly establishes the legal and political parameters for achieving the political solution to which I have referred. The validity of that resolution has now been acknowledged by the International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion of 22 July 2010 (*see A/64/881*).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to consult the General Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/64/L.65/Rev.1.

In that connection, since the draft resolution has only been circulated today, it would be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure, which reads as follows:

> "As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objection, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees with that proposal.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Before we proceed, I would like to notify members that technical corrections are now being made to the Chinese and French versions of draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1. The final version will include all those changes.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt it?

Draft resolution A/64/L.65/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 64/298).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution, may I remind speakers that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. DiCarlo (United States of America): The United States welcomes this resolution, which responds to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence. We fully support the resolution, and therefore joined the consensus on it. The Court has answered the question posed by the General Assembly. The Court's answer was clear. Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate general international law or Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Our consistent position has been that the situation in Kosovo is a special case, and not a precedent for other conflicts. Indeed, the Court's opinion is quite specific, namely, that Kosovo's declaration of independence had to be considered within the factual context that led to its adoption. This included, as the opinion described, the framework established by resolution 1244 (1999) to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo, the establishment of a transitional administration and the United Nations-facilitated future status process, which concluded that the negotiations

on Kosovo's status were exhausted and that further talks on status would not produce a mutually agreeable outcome.

Resolution 64/298 is consistent with the United States strong support for Kosovo's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Now is the time for the region to move forward and for Serbia and Kosovo to open a new phase in their relations, focused on their shared future within the European Union. We therefore welcome the European Union's offer to facilitate a dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia to promote cooperation, achieve progress on their respective European integration paths and improve the lives of people in the region, thereby enhancing peace, security and stability in the Balkans.

The United States is prepared to lend its support to a constructive, forward-looking dialogue. More broadly, we remain fully engaged and committed to helping Kosovo, Serbia and all the countries of the region to realize their aspirations for full integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence (see A164/881), which was issued on 22 July, stated without any ambiguity that the declaration, made in February 2008, did not violate general international law. The advisory opinion, which was clear and decisive, marks the end of the legal process on Kosovo. In that respect, Turkey welcomes resolution 64/298. We believe it is an important step forward in the establishment of lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region. My delegation is therefore in favour of it.

We appreciate the steps taken by Serbia to introduce the resolution. Serbia is an important player and partner in the region when it comes to addressing core issues and ensuring lasting peace and stability in the Balkans. We believe that the dialogue to be established is the only viable way to reach a common understanding, and that Serbia can and will contribute to attaining the needed peaceful solution on all issues of mutual concern.

Our position on Kosovo's independence is well known. Turkey recognizes Kosovo, upholds its territorial integrity and sovereignty, supports its democratic structures and Euro-Atlantic orientation and advocates its inclusion in regional cooperation schemes.

What now remains to be done is to look forward and encourage Serbia and Kosovo to address their future relationship through dialogue and mutual respect. In that regard, I would like to express our appreciation to both Belgrade and Pristina for keeping diplomacy at the forefront with regard to the Kosovo issue since 2008. Turkey enjoys friendly relations with Serbia and Kosovo. We are committed to the achievement of the objectives of peace, stability and prosperity for the whole region. We firmly believe that the common future of the region lies in European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Turkey is ready to assist the countries of the region to realize their aspirations in that regard and to contribute to the establishment of a constructive dialogue in our region.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): The resolution that has just been adopted, as a result of the agreement reached between Serbia and the 27 countries of the European Union, is auspicious for the continuity of dialogue on the question of Kosovo. We appreciate the role of the European Union in the efforts to resolve the dispute at hand. At the same time, we reiterate that any solution must have the support of the entire international community. Brazil believes that Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) remains the foundation for durable peace and stability in the region and for the resolution of the question of Kosovo, based on dialogue and respect for the principle of territorial integrity.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): In view of the agreement reached between Serbia and the European Union on the content of the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly on the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the question of the legality of the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo (see A/64/818), the Russian delegation has joined the consensus.

Russia's position of principle on the issue of Kosovo remains unchanged. We firmly believe that Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) remains fully in force and is still binding on all as the international legal basis for settling the Kosovo question. The Security Council continues to have a leading role in a Kosovo settlement. We think it important that the parties resume dialogue with a view to a settlement of the Kosovo problem. An important role in facilitating that process will continue to be played by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo on the basis of the mandate given to it by the Security Council.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Kosovo question is very complex and sensitive and has a bearing on the peace and security of the Balkans and of Europe as a whole. We have always believed that the best way to solve the Kosovo question is for the parties concerned to seek, through dialogue, a mutually acceptable solution within the framework of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

China takes note of the advisory opinion delivered by the International Court of Justice on 22 July (see A/64/818). We are also aware of the fact that different parties hold different views on this matter. China has maintained all along that respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity is a fundamental principle of contemporary international law and the basis for the international legal order of our times. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of United Nations Member States should be respected by all parties. The Court's advisory opinion should not prevent the parties concerned from finding a proper negotiated solution to the problem.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): My delegation joins others in welcoming the consensus that made it possible for the General Assembly to unanimously adopt resolution 64/298. India has consistently held the view that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected by all States. Therefore, the Government of India has so far not recognized the unilateral declaration of independence by Kosovo. We believe that the Kosovo issue should be resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties.

Mr. Gutierrez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): In October 2008, the General Assembly requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on whether the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo was in accordance with international law. In response to that, on 22 July, the International Court of Justice delivered its advisory opinion and concluded that the declaration of independence by Kosovo did not violate international law or Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) or the Constitutional Framework of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo.

The International Court of Justice is the only universal international entity with general jurisdiction. Its advisory opinions therefore contribute to developing international law — which, as a judicial body, it interprets independently and impartially.

Peru was very pleased to join the consensus to adopt resolution 64/298. We would have liked to have been a sponsor of it, for we believe that it reaffirms the primary role of international law and conforms to our strong tradition of respect for that pillar, on which the United Nations Charter is based. Likewise, we believe that it properly recognizes the judicial work carried out by the International Court of Justice.

My delegation believes it is important to underscore and acknowledge the constructive spirit and maturity shown by the Republic of Serbia, along with its European Union partners, which have made it possible for us to adopt this important resolution. We are certain that it will make a contribution to building peace and security in the region, thereby making it possible to carry forward a constructive dialogue based on cooperation that will clearly increase the well-being of all peoples of the Balkan region.

Mr. Hoxha (Albania): We are pleased with the decision by the Republic of Serbia to withdraw the controversial and disruptive text of draft resolution A/64/L.65, which contained narrow objectives to instrumentalize the General Assembly and hinder the progress in international support for the Republic of Kosovo. We support the wise decision to substitute that text with a text agreed among the 27 European Union member States, as embodied in resolution 64/298, which has just been adopted.

On 22 July 2010, the International Court of Justice delivered an advisory opinion on the accordance with international law of the unilateral declaration of independence in respect of Kosovo, in response to the question put forward by the General Assembly in resolution 63/3, of 8 October 2008, namely, whether the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo was in accordance with international law.

As is known to the membership, the Court concluded, by an overwhelming majority and in unambiguous terms, that Kosovo's declaration of independence violated neither general international law nor Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), nor the Provisional Constitutional Framework of Kosovo, adopted by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo pursuant to that resolution. The

Court's opinion made it clear that Kosovo's case is in fact a unique one, that it has its own long historical background and that it cannot and should not be related to any other situation elsewhere in the world. Albania welcomes this rendering of the world Court and we believe that this opinion should be acknowledged and respected. We are very pleased that the new resolution welcomes the Court's opinion with respect.

Kosovo's independence is a reality and has passed through many difficult phases, from war atrocities to lengthy negotiations under the mediation of the international community and the Secretary-General's special envoy. This reality has been increasingly recognized by Member States. The Court's advisory opinion will certainly help many countries to move towards recognition of the Republic of Kosovo, as the opinion also offers the prospect of a new phase in the relations between the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Kosovo within the perspective of their integration into the European Union — a goal shared by the whole region.

Albania is attentive to the difficulty of some in the Government of Serbia to come to terms with this new reality. What happened today at the General Assembly was a clear illustration of that. But despite this, we note with satisfaction that the text adopted today has clearly nothing in common with what we have seen in recent weeks. That is the reason that the Republic of Albania decided to support it.

Albania expresses its deep appreciation for the efforts of the European Union, along with those of other countries that have recognized Kosovo, to bring Serbia to a reasonable position by presenting this new resolution. Indeed, it is very positive that, rather than calling in vain for renewed talks on the status of Kosovo, a process already fully exhausted and a chapter definitively closed, the new text supports efforts under way and encourages Serbia and Kosovo to engage in a cooperation process on practical matters, in the interests of both countries and in the spirit of good neighbourliness. Albania will lend its full support to such a process.

Mr. Thomson (Fiji): The Fiji delegation welcomes the consensus spirit that has allowed us to carry through the revision of the Serbian resolution on the unilateral declaration of the independence of Kosovo. We welcome in particular the readiness of the European Union to facilitate a dialogue process between the parties. This occasion allows us to reaffirm our belief that the principle of peaceful dialogue is fundamental to international relations. In the place of conflict and punishment, the words peaceful engagement and positive dialogue are those we need to hear more often in our daily work.

As a member of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, Fiji continues to give careful consideration to the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo. This is so because there is often a fine line to be identified between the United Nations stated purpose of respect for the self-determination of peoples and the Charter's principle of the territorial integrity of Member States.

For the Member States of the Organization, our overriding purpose is the maintenance of international peace and security. The implications of the Court's advisory opinion must therefore be addressed responsibly and vigilantly in order to avoid the perception of the opinion as a green light for other unilateral declarations of independence around the world.

Fiji is located in the region of Melanesia. The recent history of our region demonstrates that we must be sensitive to active and latent separatist tendencies. We recognize that our region is not alone in that regard. We therefore reiterate the need for careful consideration of the possible broader implications of the Court's advisory opinion, at all times with full respect for international law.

In conclusion, we reiterate that Fiji welcomes the consensus achieved today and trusts the revised resolution's commitment to dialogue directed at peace, security and stability in the region concerned.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): Resolution 64/298, which has just been adopted, clearly reflects the commitment of all concerned parties to find a solution to the question of Kosovo through dialogue. It is also in line with the preference consistently expressed by Indonesia to follow the path of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the question of Kosovo and to find a mutually acceptable solution. This path alone will guarantee that the region achieves the path of stability, peace, security and prosperity. This has been true in other regions; it shall also be true in the Balkan region. This is the time for us to devote our full political and

diplomatic energies to finding a suitable and sustainable solution to the issue.

The International Court of Justice has discharged its task. Unquestionably, the advisory opinion will raise a host of new ramifications. We are also acutely aware that this opinion will have a dynamic life of its own. We will therefore rigorously examine the contents of the opinion.

In addressing the matter at hand, we wish once again to emphasize the importance of faithfully maintaining the sanctity of key international law and principles, in particular upholding of the principles of the peaceful settlement of conflicts, territorial integrity and political independence. That has been our steadfast position; it shall be our time-honoured principle.

Finally, we hope that the intention and readiness to undertake a process of dialogue, which is clearly reflected in the resolution, could be commenced in the immediate future — a process that will hopefully lead to achieving a mutually acceptable solution and that could contribute to the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in the region. For its part, the United Nations should continue to remain engaged in the political process to find a sustainable and peaceful solution to this issue.

Mr. Baghaei Hamaneh (Islamic Republic of Iran): The Islamic Republic of Iran joined the consensus on resolution 64/298, which is the result of a compromise between Serbia and the European Union, with the understanding that the resolution is a call to relevant parties to resolve their dispute through peaceful dialogue. My delegation reiterates its principled position concerning the vitality of adhering to international law and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran stresses that disputes have to be resolved through peaceful ways and in accordance with international law and with full respect for the lofty principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular the sovereignty and territorial integrity and political independence of the Member States of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position following the adoption of the resolution. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 77?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6:15 p.m.

United Nations A/64/PV.121

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

121st plenary meeting
Monday, 13 September 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki ..... (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Agenda item 13

Prevention of armed conflict

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 18 September 2009, the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-fifth session?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

Agenda items 21 to 26

Question of Cyprus

Armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the Assembly decided to include agenda items 21 to 26 in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session, in accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to its resolution 58/316, of 1 July 2004. In that resolution, the General Assembly decided that those items shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State. Accordingly, those items have been included in the draft agenda of the sixty-fifth session.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 21 to 26.

Agenda item 48 and 114 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Draft resolution (A/64/L.72)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, under items 48 and 114, the General

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

10-53066 (E)

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Assembly adopted resolution 64/184 and decision 64/555 on the preparations for the organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In connection with these two items, the General Assembly now has before it a draft resolution issued as document A/64/L.72, referring the annexed draft outcome document to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/64/L.72. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/64/L.72?

Draft resolution A/64/L.72 was adopted (resolution 64/299).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Alsaidi (Yemen): Since this is probably the last meeting of this session, I want to pay tribute to you, Sir, and to your presidency. It has been an excellent and productive presidency. You produced a great deal of work on behalf of all of us, and we thank you very much. As we pay tribute to you, we in the Group of 77 and China pledge our cooperation to the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session.

I take the floor on this important issue, first, to thank the co-facilitators, the Ambassador of Senegal and the Ambassador of Denmark, and you for your tireless work to produce this important outcome document. We in the Group of 77 were looking for a scaling-up of the resources that will be devoted to the implementation and realization of the Millennium Development Goals. But we were conscious of the economic difficulties that the world is witnessing and therefore we settled and went along with the compromise on the proviso that the 0.7 per cent commitment would be upheld and that the developed world would step up to the plate and help developing countries in their realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

It was not very easy for us. Some members of the Group of 77 and China had serious reservations on such issues as human security, but they opted to join the consensus. Here I want to single out the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which had difficulties with the concept of human security. But Venezuela was gracious enough to give prominence to our common interests rather than to its own individual interests, and so it joined the consensus. For that, we are grateful to them and to everyone else, including our partners in the negotiation.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We wish to join in the thanks expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China to you, Sir, for your excellent leadership of the General Assembly. In that respect, we have supported the ideas that you have proposed and are working to ensure that they are fully accomplished.

Venezuela joined the consensus on resolution 64/299, but we should like to state for the record some of our concerns, which were fully explained during the negotiation process that was conducted over the course of several months. The negotiation process surrounding the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals was arduous and complicated. The Venezuelan delegation participated actively in the negotiation process and firmly and resolutely defended the positions of the G77 and China. It has also contributed to building a platform that reflects the positions of the developing countries.

During the negotiations, it became evident that some countries refuse to recognize the dire consequences of capitalism's economic and financial crisis and claim that developing countries should continue to implement neo-liberal prescriptions, whose disastrous effects are also felt by the most vulnerable sectors in developed countries.

My delegation has reaffirmed that South-South cooperation, and cooperation in general, should be free of conditionalities and that countries should design and implement their own development plans in an autonomous and sovereign manner, regardless of the dictates of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The draft document that has been adopted takes note, for example, of non-existent progress on the behaviour of the Bretton Woods institutions, which have failed miserably and are primarily responsible for the current crisis that is having such disruptive effects, in particular in developing countries. It also ignores the importance of implementing instruments such as special drawing rights, which can leverage the development of

countries and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to eliminating the monopoly over credit held by the Bretton Woods institutions, which have done such harm to peoples.

Another source of disappointment for our country is the imbalanced and unambitious treatment given to official development assistance (ODA) an issue that is so sensitive for developing countries. In that regard, I would like to emphasize that very important paragraphs proposed by the Group of 77 and China during the negotiations were not included in the draft outcome document. It is important to underscore that the efforts made by developed countries with regard to official development assistance have not been sustained, as large donors have failed to meet the agreed target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to ODA. In addition, it is not clear what the draft document means by quality of assistance, especially as an assessment of the improvements in the quality of assistance should be conditioned by the "quantity" that those countries provide.

It is also important to point out that, for the sake of preserving the principles of multilateralism, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has maintained that worthwhile initiatives of the Secretary-General should not be placed above those of Member States. Member States are first and foremost responsible for formulating national policies to attain the Millennium Development Goals and for taking actions for the achievement of the agreed common goals.

My country requests that the record of this meeting reflect our hope that this process, initiated by the Secretary-General along with a group of interested States to ensure that the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, will result in a consensus multilateral policy that is open, transparent and inclusive of all Member States. Therefore, by way of compromise, we have suggested that it be explicitly reflected that that the Secretary-General's report on the Strategy be open to comments and feedback from all Member States.

Venezuela, which is a resolute supporter of multilateralism, would also like it reflected in the record that our acceptance of the paragraph to which I have referred should not be viewed as acceptance or legitimization by our country of the practices promoted through the so-called coalition of the willing, which we think can blur the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Finally, I would like once again to emphasize the importance that our country attaches to the unity of the Group of 77 and China as a platform for the countries of the South. We are therefore grateful for the efforts made by His Excellency Ambassador Abdullah Alsaidi, Permanent Representative of Yemen, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group. We would also like to acknowledge your efforts, Mr. President, in reaching consensus on the resolution that has been adopted.

Mr. Salsabili (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation joined the consensus of resolution 64/299 in the hope that the summit outcome will send a message of hope to all those suffering from poverty, hunger, external shocks and foreign intervention. We sincerely view the summit as the last opportunity to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, taking into account the progress made with regard to the internationally agreed development goals through a comprehensive review of successes, best practices and lessons learned, as well as obstacles, gaps, challenges and opportunities, leading to concrete strategies for action.

However, the tendency of developed partners, from the very beginning, to divert the focus of the conference to so-called cross-cutting issues and to insist on artificial red lines against the scaling up of the global partnership made the negotiation process cumbersome and seriously harmed the final draft outcome as an agenda for action. Due to that same approach taken by developed partners, the draft outcome almost totally fails to address systemic shortcomings.

The Group of 77 and China took a practical yet flexible path. Unfortunately, that was not properly reciprocated. Some may have been successful in avoiding any new commitments. However, it is clear that realities do not wait to be decided on or altered just by decisions we make here. The bitter fact is that increasing poverty, hunger and inequality at all levels are preventing Governments from putting in place effective policies to attain all the MDGs at the same time. For developing countries, the current external environment is not conducive to attaining the MDGs.

Another clear example of that approach was evident during the negotiations on the situation of peoples living under foreign occupation. While the

Group of 77 and China took a totally developmental approach to the subject, a few countries from the other side politicized the issue and brought the whole process close to deadlock. As a result, the final draft outcome's reflection of the situation of peoples living under foreign occupation is quite unfair, as compared to the situation of other peoples in need of special and urgent attention.

Let me conclude by expressing my appreciation for the efforts made by the co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Senegal and Denmark, to lead the process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner and finalize the negotiations and a consensual draft outcome.

Mrs. Salazar-Mejía (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation, Mr. President, associates itself with the words of gratitude that have been expressed with regard to your efforts.

I would also like to express our satisfaction with the agreements that have been reached in the General Assembly in connection with resolution 64/299. My country believes that these agreements have made it possible to adopt a balanced overall document that identifies priorities and reiterates the commitment of Member States towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

That said, my delegation would like to clarify its position on two specific issues referred to in the draft document that the Assembly is submitting to the summit.

First, we would like to mention the inclusion of the reference to the notion of human security in paragraph 25. Since the agreed wording on that theme acknowledges that there is not yet a consensus definition of the notion of human security, it is necessary to be aware that neither is there clarity on the areas in which its application may or may not be appropriate. Thus, my delegation interprets the reference to human security merely as a reference to wording agreed in resolution 64/291 and that it in no way indicates agreement on the relevance of the concept in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and of development.

Secondly, we would like to mention the list of situations indiscriminately included in paragraph 49 of the document under discussion without any specific conceptual criteria. My delegation believes that how we address each situation listed in that paragraph should be understood in the light of the relevant agreements of this Assembly as well as national policies and legislation. It is up to each State to define whether particular situations that affect it have a bearing on development and whether to coordinate cooperation and assistance activities with the international community.

With those comments, my delegation would like once again to express its appreciation for the spirit of cooperation shown by all countries during the negotiations on the draft document and for the commitment to a successful summit that achieves concrete results.

Mr. Benítez Versón (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, the Cuban delegation would like to express its full support for the statement made by the Ambassador of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77. We would also like to express our appreciation for the efforts of the facilitators of this process, the Permanent Representatives of Senegal and Denmark, as well as for your efforts, Mr. President.

Cuba joined the consensus on resolution 64/299, bearing in mind the positive elements it contains. At the same time, we believe that the draft document which today the General Assembly is proposing for adoption at the upcoming meeting on the Millennium Development Goals does not meet the expectations of developing countries on several important issues.

Despite the efforts made by the Group of 77 to substantially contribute to the draft document initially drawn up as a basis for negotiations, most of the Group's proposals are not adequately reflected in the final version, in particular those relating to Goal 8. In the course of the analysis and review of Goal 8, the developing countries hoped that the document would factually reflect the repeated lack of implementation by developed countries of the various elements set out in that Goal.

That was not possible. The most powerful nations not only prevented it, but also took it upon themselves during the negotiations to block any language that pointed to the need to grant new and additional resources to the underdeveloped world to help achieve the modest Millennium Development Goals. Thus, the document lacks sufficiently frank and critical analysis of the current situation, even though it has been clearly demonstrated that the lack of financial resources, together with the restrictions imposed by the current world order, are the real reasons for the serious danger of

the modest Goals agreed upon in 2000 not being reached. Nonetheless, the document itself acknowledges the huge efforts that the South has been making to achieve the MDGs and our countries' various initiatives in many areas in that regard.

We are certain that the debate during the High-level Meeting will be much richer than its final document. The event will serve once again as a forum for our countries to again express their wishes and legitimate aspirations. The Cuban delegation will continue to work with the other nations of the South towards the attainment of those wishes and aspirations.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

Members will recall that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006, the Assembly decided to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the General Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

May I therefore take it that the Assembly will continue to dedicate a specific meeting focused on development, including an assessment of progress over the previous year, at each session of the General Assembly during the debate on the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome? There appears to be no objection.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Carsten Staur of Denmark and Ambassador Paul Badji of Senegal, who have so ably and patiently conducted the discussions and complex negotiations in the informal consultations, and to all Member States for their valuable contributions to the successful completion of the draft outcome document. In the light of the difficult negotiations and the great effort put into this outcome, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all participants.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda items 48 and 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 52 (*continued*)

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Progress report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (A/64/884)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Morten Wetland of Norway and Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe of Zambia, who have so ably conducted the discussions of the Working Group. I am certain that members of the Assembly join me in extending our sincere appreciation to them.

I should like to note that I have been informed by the Group of 77 and China that it is their wish to continue with the work of the Working Group at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 52?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 53 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Draft resolution (A/64/L.68)

Draft decision (A/64/L.71)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly has before it a draft resolution, issued as document A/64/L.68, referring the annexed draft outcome

document to the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and a draft decision issued as document A/64/L.71.

(*spoke in English*)

Having just received a note on the draft decision contained in document A/64/L.71, I wish to make the following technical correction to the text. In operative paragraph (b), the text referring to the observer of the Commonwealth should now read,

> "the observer of the Commonwealth Secretariat and, time permitting, other heads of State and Government indicating their wish to speak to the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly".

(*spoke in Arabic*)

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/64/L.68, entitled "Draft outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/64/L.68?

The draft resolution A/64/L.68 was adopted (resolution 64/300).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/64/L.71, entitled "Modalities for the High-level Review Meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", as orally corrected.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft decision A/64/L.71, as orally corrected?

Draft decision A/64/L.71, as orally corrected, was adopted.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Sylvie Lucas of Luxembourg and Ambassador Vanu Gopala Menon of Singapore, who so ably and patiently conducted the discussions and complex negotiations in the informal consultations, and to all Member States for their valuable contributions to the successful completion of the draft outcome document.

I now give the floor to the representative of Grenada, who wishes to speak in explanation of position on the texts just adopted.

Ms. Williams (Grenada): I speak on behalf of the States members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership throughout the sixty-fourth session, especially on the items related to the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation five-year review process. In addition, through you, Sir, we wish to extend our gratitude to the co-facilitators of the negotiating process on the concise draft political declaration. Please extend our gratitude to the delegations of Lithuania and Singapore.

We believe that arriving at consensus on the text set out in the annex to resolution 64/300, although it was very difficult and required a lot of compromise by AOSIS, sends a positive message — a positive signal — that the international community remains committed to addressing the unique and particular vulnerability of small island developing States (SIDS) through the full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and its Mauritius Strategy.

It is now time to translate these words into action. While the text does not fully address all the concerns of the Group, particularly as it relates to provision of the means of implementation, we nevertheless welcome the fact that consensus was reached. We look forward to active participation now of all United Nations Member States, at the highest level, in the two-day High-level Meeting to be held on 24 and 25 September.

It is our expectation that that review will result in concrete and tangible action for the advancement of the sustainable development of SIDS. Just as you have orally corrected the decision on modalities, Mr. President — even at the ninety-ninth hour — we note that we too would like to come back with one or two suggestions on the actual structure of the second day of the meeting.

Once again, Mr. President, AOSIS thanks all Member States and you in particular for this effort.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 53?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 53 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity

Draft decision (A/64/L.70)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 82nd plenary meeting, on 15 April 2010, the Assembly adopted decision 64/555.

The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/64/L.70, entitled "Modalities for the high-level meeting as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft decision A/64/L.70?

Draft decision A/64/L.70 was adopted.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 53?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly (A/64/903)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will now take action on the draft resolution, entitled "Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly", contained in paragraph 64 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 64/301).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina and Ambassador Sanja Štiglic of Slovenia, the two Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group, who so ably conducted the Working Group's discussions and complex negotiations. I am sure members of the Assembly join me in extending our sincere appreciation to them.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 119 (*continued*)

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that the General Assembly held a joint debate on agenda items 9 and 119 at its 43rd to 46th plenary meetings, on 12 and 13 November 2009.

Members will also recall that, pursuant to General Assembly decision 63/565 B of 14 September 2009, the Assembly continued its intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary meetings during the current session.

May I therefore take it, that the General Assembly decides, first, to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, as mandated by General Assembly decisions 62/557 of 15 September 2008 and 63/565 of 14 September 2009, building on the progress achieved during its sixty-fourth session, as well as the positions of and proposals made by Member States, while noting with appreciation the initiatives and efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the Chair, including the preparation of the text reflecting the positions of and proposals submitted by Member States, with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council; secondly, to convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly if Member States so decide; and thirdly, to include in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council"?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan for chairing these negotiations on my behalf and for doing so in an impartial manner while facilitating progress.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 119?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 122

Follow-up to the recommendations on administrative management and internal oversight of the Independent Inquiry Committee into the United Nations Oil-for-Food Programme

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-fifth session?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 122.

Agenda item 151

Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting on 18 September 2009, the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the sixty-fourth session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of its sixty-fifth session?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 151.

Agenda items remaining for consideration during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to remind delegations that the following agenda items, on which action has been taken at previous meetings, have remained open for consideration during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly: items 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 49, 53 (d), 64, 70 (a), 96, 106 to 108, 111 (a) and (e), 112 (f) and (i), 121, 123, 127 to 150, 152 to 163 and 172.

As members are aware, these items have been included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly with the exception of sub-item (e) of agenda item 111, entitled "Election of twenty-nine members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme"; sub-item (i) of agenda item 112, entitled "Appointment of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services"; agenda item 121, entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals"; agenda item 131, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009"; agenda item 132, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011"; agenda item 141, entitled "Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272"; agenda item 145, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations"; and agenda item 147, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of items 9, 10, 15, 16, 20, 49, 53 (d), 64, 70 (a), 96, 106 to 108, 111 (a) and (e), 112 (f) and (i), 121, 123, 127 to 150, 152 to 163 and 172 at the present session and to include them in the draft agenda of the sixty-fifth session?

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

The President: I would like to draw the attention of Members to the date of closure of the current session. Members will recall that, at the 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly decided that the sixty-fourth session would be closed on Monday, 13 September 2010. However, in view ofthe ongoing consultations on the draft resolution contained in document A/64/L.67, I would like to propose to the Assembly that it postpone the date of the closure of the current session until tomorrow, Tuesday, 14 September 2010. Unless there is any objection, I will take it that the Assembly agrees to this proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.